

# A Study About Archaeological Survey in Adichanallur

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**Abstract:** The Archaeological Survey of India has the main function of exploring, excavating, conserving, protecting the monuments and sites of National and International Importance. Includes: a history of the Survey, latest developments, publications, and contact information. India has an extraordinary rich, vast and diverse cultural heritage in the form of built heritage, archaeological sites and remains since prehistoric times. ADICHANALLUR has a history of excavation. Adichanallur is an archaeological site in Thoothukudi district in Tamil Nadu, India. The town is known locally as Aathichanallur, and has been the site of a number of very important archaeological findings.

**Keywords:** Archaeological Survey

## 1. Introduction

The Iron-Age urn-burial site at Adichanallur, about 24 km from Tirunelveli town in southern Tamil Nadu, has attracted nationwide attention for three important findings: an inscription in a rudimentary Tamil-Brahmi script on the inside of an urn containing a full human skeleton; a potsherd (fragment of broken earthenware) with stunningly beautiful motifs; and the remains of living quarters (rampart wall, potters' kilns, a smith's shop and so on). Now Adichanallur is an archaeological site in Thoothukudi district in Tamil Nadu, India that has been the site of a number of very important archaeological finds. Korkai, the capital of the Early Pandyan Kingdom, is located about 15 km from Adichanallur. In present Excavations 2004, a number of skeletons were found buried in earthenware urns. Some of these urns contained writing in Tamil Brahmi script. While some of the burial urns contained skeletons of Tamil origin, Carbon dating of samples excavated in 2004 from the Adichanallur site has revealed that they belonged to the period between 905 BC and 696 BC. In 2005, around 169 clay urns containing human skeletons were unearthed that date back to at-least 3,800 years. In 2018, research on skeletons remains were dated to 2500 BC–2200 BC.



Fig. 1. Site: Adichanallur area



Fig. 2. The excavated site at Adichanallur in Srivvaikundam taluk

## 2. Archaeological Excavation

In 2004, a number of Skeleton were taken from this area dating from around 1800BC; were found buried in earthenware urns. More than 160 urns have been found. These urns also contained writing, which according to some ASI archaeologist, rudimentary Tamil Brahmi. The script might date back to circa 500 BCE, subject to confirmation by carbon-14 dating. Which is more reliable. Later, a three tier burial system was discovered in which earlier generation were buried in urns at 10 feet depth and recent cones above them. Soon the habitations site it was understood that people lived in a fortified town and it had a separate potters quarters. There was also evidence of industrial activity and archaeologist think that it was a crowded busy town.

## 3. Period of Study

The present study examines the people's participation in the activities of Adichanallur the period of 2017 – 2018.

*Design of the Study:*

The primary data is collected by interview method with village members. Figure and table are used in the study.

*Importance of the Study:*

- Adichanallur is an archaeological site in Thoothukudi district in Tamil Nadu, India.
- The importance of the study presumes, a number of very important Archaeological finds.
- Korkai the Capital of the early Pandiyan kingdom, which is located about 15km from Adichanallur

## 4. Finding of the Study

### A. Site Museum

A new initiative involves the setting up of site museum. It has to set the museum in the place from where significant

objects were excavated. The ASI has a huge collection of materials like urns excavated from Adichanallur, at present they were in Chennai. The idea is to setup a museum in Adichhanallur itself and put on display whatever had been excavated from here.



Fig. 3. Site museum

### B. Past Excavations

Adichanallur has a history of excavations. The urn- burial site was brought to light when a german, Dr.Jagor conducted a haphazard excavation at the place in 1876. An English man called Alexander Rea, who was the superintending archaeologist, excavated the urn-burial site between 1889 to 1905.A French man called Louis Lapique also conducted and excavation in 1904.

In his article entitled "Prehistoric antiquities in Tirunelveli" which appeared in the Archaeological survey of India's annual report in 1902-03. Rea called the Adichanallur site the most extensive prehistoric site as yet discovered in southern if not in the whole of India. The site was first brought to notice in 1876 when it was visited by Dr. Jagor.

Excavation by jagor, he found 50 kinds of backed earth utensils of all sizes and shapes, a considerable number of iron weapons and chief knives or sword blades, hatchets and great quantity of bones and skulls.



Fig. 4.

In his first excavation, Rea discovered about 1,872 objects and about 4000 more later, he said. The objects yielded by these buriel sites are finely made pottery of various kinds in great

numbers. Many iron implements and weapons vessels and personal ornaments in bronze; a few gold ornaments, a few stone beads, bones and some house hold stone implements used for grinding curry or sandalwood. Traces of cloth, urns with mica pieces, and husks or rice and millet were found in pots inside the urns. Lamp stands, hanging lamps, bell mouthed jars, chatties, necklaces, wire bangles, sword, spears and arrows were found. Importantly, several gold diagram with a hole on each end for tying them around the forehead were found. Rea also discovered a number of bronze figures of buffalo, the goat or sheep, the cock, the tiger, the antelope and the elephant.

In those urns which contained complete skeletons and which were thus preserved by the lid, the position of the bones made it obvious that the body had been sit inside in a squatting or sitting position. Above all, his excavation was important for the bronze objects discovered because they are quite unique in the proto-history of south india. Besides, he discovered a figure of mother." Goodness all this showed that the Tamil culture was rich then"

Rea systematically documented all the objects that he discovered and the objects that he discovered and handed them over to the government museum in Chennai, where they are on display. The Iron age urn burial site at Adichanallur about 40 km from Thoothukudi city in southern Tamil Nadu, has attracted nationwide attention for three important findings an inscription in a rudimentary Tamil- brahmi (Tamizhi) on the inside of an urn containing a full human skeleton a posture with dramatic motifs; and the remains of living quarters (rampart wall, potters, kilns, a smith's shop and so on) close to the site.

### 5. Conclusion

All these continuous findings have made clear that everything mentioned in Early Tamil literature is almost a fact and anything mentioned in Tamil literary works are highly likely to be found. Till 20th century many historians saw the Tamil classics as more folklores or myths. But the continuous findings coincide with the literary mentions be it the poompuhar or korkai. The Adichanallur and keezhadi are just two known sites among the many and all these say one thing that "The Tamils had an Unbroken history".

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