

Ancient Port City of Godawaya and the Recent Discovery of the Unknown Wooden Wreck with Black & Red Ware

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Godawaya is an old port city situated near the river mouth of Walawe River. The 2nd century inscription at the Godawaya temple gives clear evidence about this port and some of the taxes collected. Additionally, there is a great deal evidence relating to the old port and its international trade relations found during the past two decades. This is the unpublished story of the oldest wooden wreck with black & red ware and the 7000 years old pre-historic skeleton found near the Godawaya in 2008.

An international team of experts in diving and underwater archaeology from Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines participated in the assessment of the shipwreck at Godawaya, Sri Lanka. The main objective of the exploration was to make an assessment of the wreck site based on the data generated during the fieldwork. The important observation suggests that the site is spread in an area of 40 m X 22 m. The important findings include various sizes of jars, carinated cooking vessels, stone benches and unidentified other main wreckage parts. The analysis of pottery retrieved earlier and observed during the present investigation suggests that the pottery is not similar to those found from the shipwrecks of the 10th century AD onwards. This site is found to be the oldest underwater archaeological/shipwreck site in the Asian-Pacific region.

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