The ‘Brindavana’ (tomb) of Sri Vyasaraja Tirtha, a renowned saint of the Madhwa tradition at Anegundi near Hampi, was found razed on Thursday. It is one of the nine such at Nava Brindavana, on the banks of the Tungabhadra.

The incident came to light on Thursday when people came to perform rituals. The police suspect it to be an act of treasure hunters.

The incident is suspected to have happened during the lunar eclipse early on Wednesday.

“Our investigation team is already at the spot. We found some puja material there. It is evident that some kind of puja was offered to the seat of the saint as well. We prima facie feel this is an act of treasure hunters. I have formed a special team headed by the Circle Inspector, attached to Gagavati Rural, to investigate the case,” Renuka K. Sukumar, Superintendent of Police, Koppal, told The Hindu.

The situation was tense as news of the vandalism spread. The police appealed to the people to maintain calm. Sri Vyasaraja Tirtha was the ‘Raja Guru’ of Sri Krishnadevaraya, the Vijaynagar Emperor. He was buried at Nava Brindavana in 1539.

Speaking to presspersons, Vidya Shreesha Tirtha Swami of Sosale Vyasaraja Mutt, announced that the reconstruction and the restoration of its sanctity would begin right away. By evening, the reconstruction of the Brindavana had begun.