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## Ballari DC orders inquiry into 'dumping' of bodies

STAFF REPORTER  
BALLARI

Ballari Deputy Commissioner S.S. Nakul on Tuesday ordered an inquiry after a video showing bodies, allegedly those of COVID-19 victims, being hurled into large burial trenches in an isolated area. The video caused public outrage in Ballari, which has seen a spurt in the number of cases, now totalling 834.

Mr. Nakul told *The Hindu* that an inquiry would be conducted by the Additional Deputy Commissioner and he had been directed to submit the report at the earliest. "Whether the mortuary staff violated guidelines issued for burying COVID-19 victims will be confirmed only after the inquiry," he

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said. He said there is no conclusive evidence to prove that the incident took place in Ballari district. "However, throwing bodies into a trench is disgraceful act. The victims should be buried separately in an isolated area."

Mr. Nakul said that serious action will be taken against those responsible for such insensitivity, if it is confirmed that the incident took place in Ballari district.

The district reported nine COVID-19 related deaths on Monday and five deaths on Tuesday, he added. Total deaths in the district stands at 29.