

## Orissa village tense over damaged Hindu idols

Tension gripped a village in Orissa's Jajpur district Wednesday after two idols of Hindu gods were found damaged, police said.

Brahmabarada village in Jajpur, around 120 km from here, remained tense after residents spotted that a 15-foot idol of Hanuman and a statue of Sani, the Hindu deity identified with Saturn, had been vandalised.

While the right hand fingers of the Hanuman idol were cut off, the Sani statue had been beheaded, a district police official told IANS.

Though no untoward incident has occurred, about 30 armed policemen have been deployed in the village to prevent trouble between two religious communities.

Administrative and police officials have rushed to the spot and have begun investigations.

'It could be the handiwork of some miscreants to create trouble among Muslims and Hindus who have been living together peacefully for decades,' the official said.

Brahmabarada has a population of over 22,000, of which 15,000 are Muslims.

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