

Clash between tribals, farmers averted

By Our Staff Reporter

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Timely action by the police helped in averting a major clash between tribals and non-tribals in Mandalapalli village of Dammamet mandal on Thursday.

Annoyed by repeated threats allegedly held out by a tribal leader, nearly 500 non-tribal farmers prepared themselves for an attack.

Fearing a raid of the tribals on their farms, the farmers cordoned off paddy nurseries under the Chintalacheruvu tank of the village. The Scheduled Castes and Backward Class farmers also joined the non-tribals for the counter-offensive.

In the meantime, police forces led by the Deputy Superintendents of Police — Mr. Venkateswara Rao (Sathupalli) and Mr. Madhava Rao (Khammam) — and 15 sub-inspectors reached the village and dispersed the farmers.

They contacted the non-tribal leaders in the nearby villages and warned them against provoking the farmers.

The DSPs and the local revenue officials had separate discussions with leaders of both tribals and non-tribals and assured them of all help to ensure protection to the residents of the Mandalapalli village.

The tribals had repeatedly been parading across the disputed lands and warned the farmers against raising fresh crops.

A delegation of tribal leaders, including Mr. Payam Ramesh, Mr. Kursam Venkateswarlu, Mr. Soyam Venkateswarlu and Mr Chandrasekhar, reached the district headquarters along with the police to meet district officials.