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15 security men, 1 civilian killed in Maoist ambush in Chhattisgarh

Sixteen people, including 11 CRPF men, 4 jawans of Sukma district police force and one civilian were killed in a Maoist ambush in southern Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, around 400 km south of Raipur, on Tuesday. Political class outraged by Maoist attack

INDIA Updated: Mar 12, 2014 12:04 IST



Ejaz Kaiser and S Karim
Hindustan Times



A large group of Maoist rebels ambushed a team of security forces in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, leaving 11 CRPF jawans, four district policemen and a civilian dead.

The attack, which comes less than a fortnight after Maoists killed five policemen in an ambush in nearby Dantewada, has raised fears that the Maoists are now regrouping to mount more attacks after having laid low for three months.

Video:Maoists kill 15 in Chhattisgarh (<https://www.hindustantimes.com/audio-news-video/AV-India/Maoists-ambush-security-personnel-in-Chhattisgarh-over-a-dozen-killed/Article2-1193683.aspx>)

Read:Security team blatantly violated SoP, say officials (<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/security-team-blatantly-violated-sop-officials/article1-1193748.aspx>)

Tuesday's incident took place between Jhiram Ghati (Bastar) and Tongpal (Sukma) a little after 10am. The area is around 450km south of state capital Raipur and the site was some 15km from the spot where the rebels carried out an audacious attack on a Congress convoy on May 25 last year.



An injured man is taken for treatment after Maoists attacked a CRPF search party near Tongpal in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh. PTI Photo

A chunk of state Cong leadership was eliminated in the attack that killed 27 people.

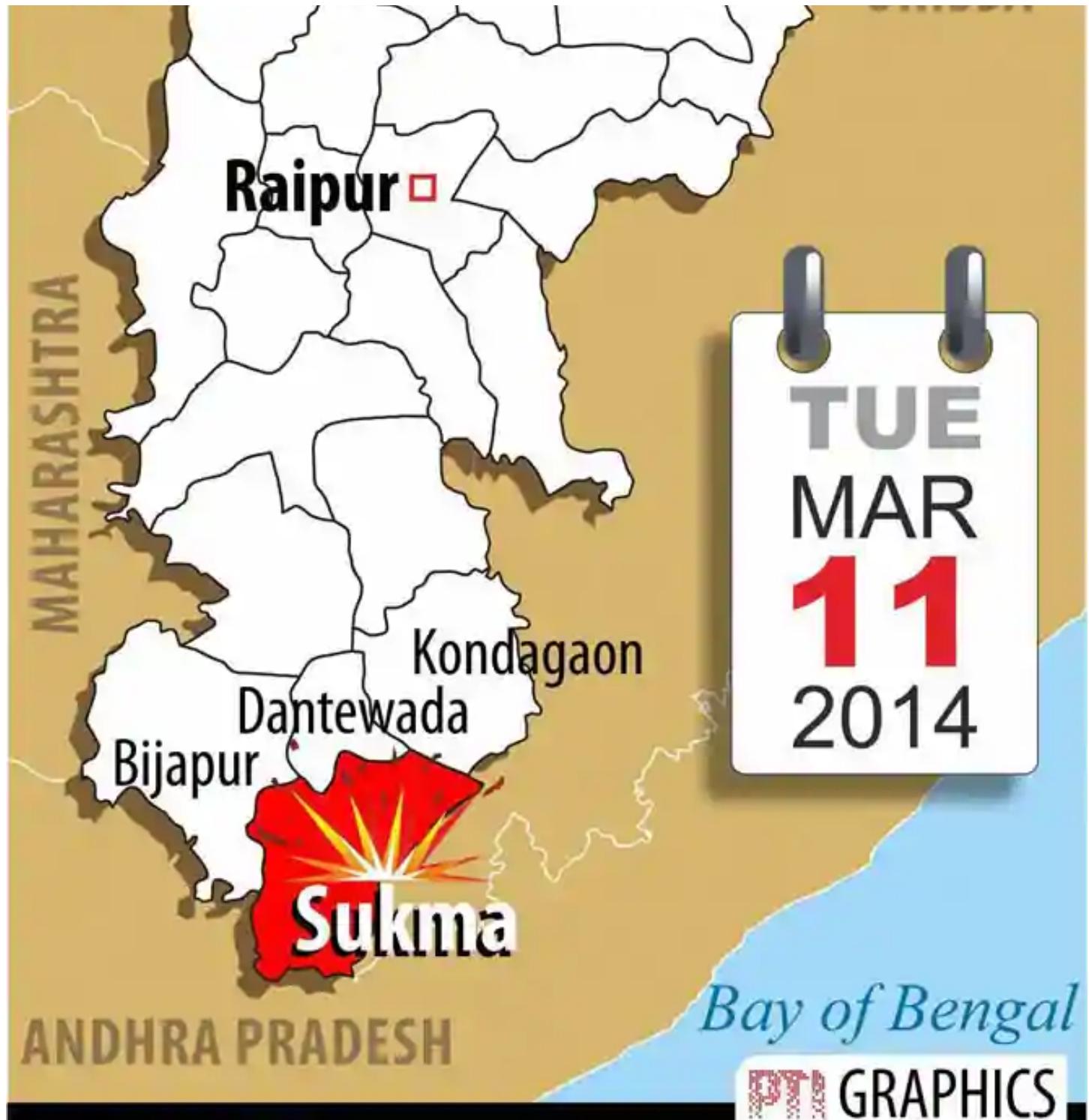
Read:Maoist ambush aimed at destabilising Lok Sabha polls

(<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/maoist-ambush-aimed-at-destabilising-lok-sabha-polls/article1-1193626.aspx>)

A team of jawans from the CRPF's 80th Battalion and Sukma police force were accompanying construction workers heading to repair a road in the area.

Injured police constable Pannilal Thakur told HT in Bastar that they were on their way to provide security to road construction workers, when they saw a truck and an excavator being set ablaze by Maoists.





"The rebels fired at us from the nearby forested area, killing one of our colleagues and injuring three others. As we charged toward them through the forest, we realised we had walked into an ambush. A woman Maoist fired at me," Thakur said.

Read: Security forces get special training to keep Maoists in check

(<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/ranchi/security-forces-get-special-training-to-keep-maoists-in-check/article1-1190354.aspx>)

Additional director general of police (anti-Maoist operation) RK Vij said about 100 Maoist guerrillas were involved in the attack.

"The encounter, in which 45 personnel from CRPF and the state police were trapped, continued for a couple of hours," the officer said.

Though the security forces retaliated the attack, there is no report of any casualty of the rebels. The armed guerillas also looted weapons---six AK-47, seven INSAS rifles, three grenade launchers---before fleeing into the nearby jungles.

Read:Maoists set to strike police stations during Lok Sabha polls, Centre warns state

(<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/ranchi/maoists-set-to-strike-police-stations-during-lok-sabha-polls-centre-warns-state/article1-1188426.aspx>)

Three seriously injured jawans were air-lifted to Raipur for immediate medical attention.

Senior police officials including state DGP and ADGP left for the spot on chopper, a state police headquarter source here said.

Chief minister Raman Singh has cut short his Delhi visit and was scheduled to return to Raipur in the evening on Tuesday.



Security personnel near the bodies of their colleagues after Maoists attacked a joint search party of CRPF and the police near Tongpal in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh. PTI Photo

Read: Political class outraged by Maoist attack in Chhattisgarh

(<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/political-class-outraged-by-maoist-attack-in-chhattisgarh/article1-1193784.aspx>)

He convened a high level meeting of top officials at the CM house at 7.45 pm, the principal secretary to the CM N Baijendra Kumar told HT.

On February 28, armed guerrillas killed five Chhattisgarh policemen, including a sub-inspector near Shyamgiri hilly terrain in Dantewada.

Bastar remains the epicentre of the left-wing extremists and home minister Sushilkumar Shinde on Tuesday vowed to take the rebels "head on".

Read:Maoists may use latent UP villages to scuttle LS polls (<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/maoists-may-use-latent-up-villages-to-scuttle-ls-polls/article1-1192989.aspx>)

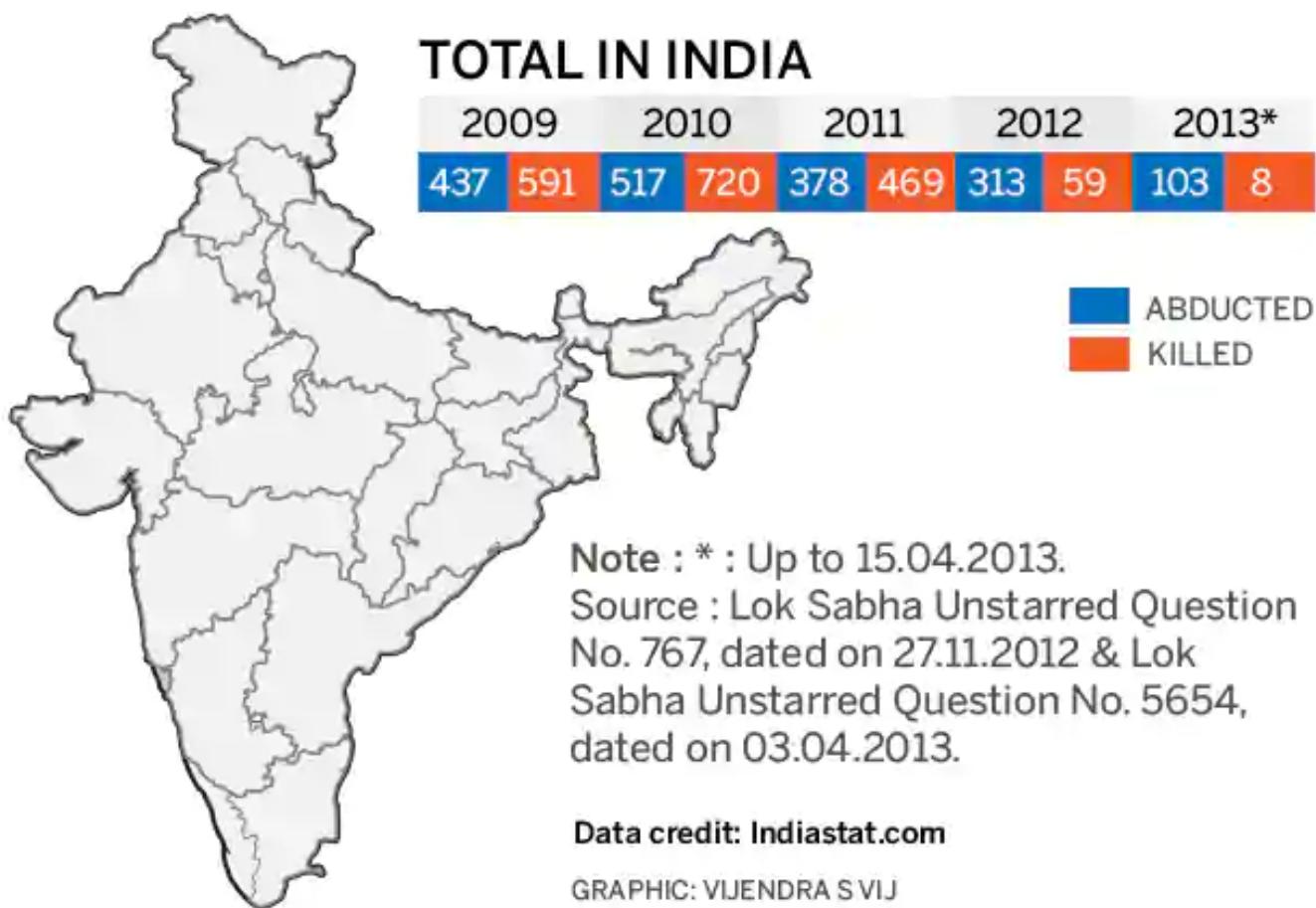
REBEL TARGET

NUMBER OF CIVILIANS KIDNAPPED OR KILLED IN MAOIST VIOLENCE IN SELECT STATES

(2009 to 15/04/2013)

STATES	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013*	
	Civilians Abducted	Civilians Killed								
Andhra Pradesh	3	18	16	24	7	9	6	2	0	0
Bihar	25	47	76	72	87	60	37	9	36	2
Chhattisgarh	121	163	162	171	73	124	79	13	4	0
Jharkhand	146	140	121	132	126	149	94	16	55	5
Maharashtra	38	41	9	35	14	44	43	8	4	0
Odisha	38	36	55	62	49	39	52	11	4	1

Uttar Pradesh	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
West Bengal	65	144	74	223	21	43	1	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Karnataka	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0



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