Naxals kill 22 CRPF men in Chhattisgarh (INDIA)

THE DEATH toll in the devastating landmine ambush by Naxalites in the remote forest hamlet of Pojar in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh rose to 24, with four more CRPF men succumbing to their injuries on Sunday.

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The CRPF commandant B.K. Toppo, who was also in the anti-landmine vehicle, and three other seriously injured constables were rushed to Raipur medical college by helicopter and are said to be responding to treatment.

Meanwhile the Chhattisgarh government is considering clamping a ban on Naxalites on Sunday. Chief Minister Raman Singh has convened a high-level meeting in the evening to consider imposing a ban on the CPI (Maoist) and its other frontal organisations.

A rudely jolted state administration is slowly coming to grips with the situation. State home minister Ramvichar Netam, who rushed to the blast site near Bijapur in Dantewada district along with the DG and IG of Police and other top officials, said that the state government was in touch with the Center to find out what type of explosives were used to blow up the vehicle which is supposed to withstand such attacks.

Such was the impact of the blast that the vehicle was thrown up high in the air and blown to pieces and there was a 15-feet-wide crater.