



# Tarapur Massacre of Bihar

## Why in News

Recently, **Bihar Chief Minister** has announced that **15<sup>th</sup> February** would be commemorated as **“Shahid Diwas”** in memory of the **34 freedom fighters who were killed by police in Tarapur town** (now subdivision) of Bihar’s Munger district 90 years ago.

- The Tarapur massacre was the **biggest carried out by the British police after the one in [Jallianwala Bagh](#)** in Amritsar in 1919.

## What Happened in Tarapur?

- On 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1932, a group of young freedom fighters planned to hoist an Indian national flag at Thana Bhawan in Tarapur.
- Police were aware of the plan, and several officers were present at the spot.
- A 4,000-strong crowd pelted the police with stones, injuring an officer of the civil administration.
- The police responded by **opening indiscriminate fire on the crowd**. After about 75 rounds were fired, **34 bodies were found at the spot**, even though there were claims of an even larger number of deaths.
- But only 13 of the dead could be identified.

## What Triggered the Protest?

- The hanging of **[Bhagat Singh](#), Sukhdev, and Rajguru in Lahore** on 23<sup>th</sup> March, 1931, sent a **wave of grief and anger around the country**.
- Following the collapse of the **Gandhi-Irwin Pact**, the **[Mahatma](#)** was arrested in early 1932.
  - By this Pact, Gandhiji consented to participate in a Round Table Conference (the Congress had boycotted the first Round Table Conference) in London and the government agreed to release the political prisoners.
- The **Congress was declared an illegal organization**, and Nehru, Patel, and Rajendra Prasad were also thrown into jail.
- In Munger, freedom fighters Srikrishna Singh, Nemdhari Singh, Nirapad Mukherjee, Pandit Dasrath Jha, Basukinath Rai, Dinanath Sahay, and Jaymangal Shastri were arrested.
- A call given by the Congress leader **Sardar Shardul Singh Kavishwar to raise the tricolour over government buildings** resonated in Tarapur.

**[Source: IE](#)**