

Senari massacre of Bihar

July 15, 2021

In news- Recently, the Supreme Court of India admitted Bihar government's appeal against acquittal of 13 people in Senari massacre case.

About Senari massacre –

- **This incident took place on March 18, 1999** where **34 upper caste men** were forced out of their homes in Senari village of Jehanabad district allegedly by cadres of the now defunct Maoist Communist Centre (MCC), and **slaughtered near the village temple.**
- It was said that the Maoist organisation perpetrated the massacre allegedly to take revenge for the Ranvir Sena, a private army of upper-caste people, allegedly killing 56 Dalits at Laxmanpur Bathe in 1996 and 23 more at Shankarbiga in 1999.
- The **upper caste villagers**, especially the Ranbir Sena led by Barmeshwar Mukhiya who was sent to jail in 2012.
- The Senari massacre saw the killing of the largest number of upper caste victims (34) after the Dalelchak-Bhagora massacre of Aurangabad in 1987, in which 42 upper caste people including 21 of a single family were killed.
- In 2016, a Jehanabad court sentenced 11 accused to death, and awarded the life sentence to three others. Three of those convicted challenged the verdict in the High Court.
- In May 2021, the Patna High Court acquitted 13 accused persons in the Senari massacre case.
- A Division Bench of Justices Ashwini Kumar Singh and Arvind Srivastava reversed the lower court's verdict, citing lack of sufficient corroborative evidence.