



# ବିଜୁ ଜନତା ସଂସଦୀୟ ଦଳ Biju Janata Dal Parliamentary Party

6<sup>th</sup> December, 2021

**LOK SABHA**

Leader  
Shri Pinaki Misra

**Chief Whip**

Prof. Achyutananda Samanta

**Depy. Chief Whip**

Shri Anubhav Mohanty

**RAJYA SABHA**

Leader  
Shri Prasanna Acharya

**Chief Whip**

Dr. Sasmit Patra

**General Secretary**  
**Parliamentary Party Office**  
Dr. Amar Patnaik

**Shri. Arjun Ram Meghwal**

**Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Culture**

Government of India

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

**MEMORANDUM**

**Sub : Declaration of "Paika Bidroha" as the First War of Independence**

Dear Sir,

This is to bring to your kind notice that "Paika Bidroha" also known as the Paika Rebellion took place in 1817, which was India's first organized armed rebellion against the British raj. This was the First war of Independence for India which was 40 years before the revolt of 1857, which was later termed as 1st War of Indian Independence against British Colonialism. This battle was fought under the leadership of Baxi Jagabandhu of Odisha. The legend of the heroics of Baxi Jagabandhu as well as the valiant Paikas of Odisha continues to inspire the 4.5 crore Odias since the last two centuries. It is time, that this struggle and sacrifice by a generation of Odia people got its due place in the annals of history. The Paika Bidroha led the path in energizing and mobilizing the people of India and created strong resistance against the British raj, which ultimately led to the British having to leave India and India gaining its independence from foreign rule.



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On 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 the Odisha Cabinet of Ministers led by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Shri. Naveen Patnaik, passed a resolution to declare Paika Bidroha as First War of Independence. On 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 Hon'ble CM Shri. Naveen Patnaik wrote a letter to then Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri. Rajnath Singh requesting to declare Paika Bidroha as the first war of Independence. The people of Odisha wholeheartedly supported this proposal and were overjoyed that finally the rich heritage and culture of the land of Paikas would be rightly recognised which it richly deserves.

On 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2017, a massive Bicentenary Celebration of the heroic Paika Bidroha was held at New Delhi which was inaugurated by the then Hon'ble President of India Shri. Pranab Mukherjee in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Shri. Naveen Patnaik. There also the demand for declaring the Paika Bidroha reverberated and echoed. People of Odisha across all walks of life were ecstatic and hopeful that Paika Bidroha would be declared as the first war of independence.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017, the then Hon'ble Union Minister of Human Resource Development Shri. Prakash Javadekar in a press meet at Bhubaneswar announced that "Paika Bidroha will find a place as the First War of Independence against the British Rule in the history books. The students shall learn factual history of 1817." This brought great happiness to the people of Odisha that after long years of struggle and with the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Shri. Naveen Patnaik, finally the Centre had agreed to the proposal of Shri.





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Naveen Patnaik to declare the Paika Bidroha as the First War of Independence.

However, people of Odisha were shocked, anguished and pained when they recently came to know that the Centre had refused to declare Paika Bidroha also known as Paika Rebellion as the First War of Independence. In reply to an Unstarred Question No. 485 of 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2021 in the Rajya Sabha, Parliament of India, the Hon'ble Union Minister of Culture, Government of India has mentioned that "Paika Rebellion cannot be called the First War of Independence." Further painful is the reply, that this historic Paika Bidroha would be reduced to just a 'case study' in the Class-8 history textbook of NCERT which deals with the 1857 event, thereby rendering this momentous Paika Bidroha just as a footnote to the 1857 event.

**We, the elected people representatives of Odisha** have been receiving hundreds of calls from Odias from Odisha, India and across the world who consider this reply as a slight and insult to the rich history and culture of Odisha. This is a massive damage to the "Odia Asmita, Odia Itihaas, Odia Sanskruti, Odia Sabhayata, Odia Ayitiha and Odia Parampara." The 4.5 crore people of Odisha as well as proud Odias across the world are aggrieved by this grievous injury to their Odia identity and history.



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We strongly demand along with the 4.5 crore people of Odisha, that the Government of India must immediately declare Paika Bidroha as the First War of Independence as has been repeatedly demanded and also conceded by the then Hon'ble Union Minister of Human Resource Development. Until this demand is met, the pride and the glory of Odisha and the 4.5 Crore Odias will not allow us to rest for a moment.

We look forward to your kind cooperation and support in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

**Biju Janata Dal MPs from Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha**

*Milind Kumar (L.S.)* *Prasanna Acharya (R.S.)*  
*Musibulla Khan (M.P.S.)*  
*Sarmit Patra (M.P.S.)*  
*Chandran Muzumdar*  
*Ramesh C. Misra (L.S.)*  
*Surjeet Kumar (R.S.)*