

Regarding setting up of a Paika regiment in the state of Odisha-laid

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SHRIMATI MALVIKA DEVI (KALAHANDI): I would like to request the Hon?ble Prime Minister and Hon?ble Minister of Defence to consider a Paika Regiment for the State of Odisha. 40 years before sepoy mutiny of 1857 there was a rebellion against the British in Kalinga, one of the earliest popular uprisings against the British. Beginning on the 2nd of April 1817, Paikas under their leader Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidydhara Mohapatra Rai confronted the British and fought against their unfair practices. The brave Paikas rendered martial services, fought valiantly to protect the people of Odisha with their lives. It started in Banapur and spread to many areas of Odisha and lasted for 8 years supported by the rajas, their bravery united the people to fight against the British.

History is full of stories of their prowess and valour. The Sanskrit Mahabharata attributes the military strength of Kalinga to the Paikas. Odisha stayed invincible to Mughals. Legend says that they turned the river Daya red fighting Ashoka never giving up.

Please consider a regiment for Odisha as an honour and tribute to the historically brave Oriya?s and acknowledge their contribution in one of the earliest and most significant uprising against the British.