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The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 200th anniversary celebrations of the Paika Rebellion of Odisha today (July 20, 2017) in New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that it was indeed a privilege for him to be present on the occasion of inauguration of year-long celebration of Bi-Centenary of the Paika Bidroha of Odisha. He congratulated the people of the country and especially those of Odisha on the occasion. He stated that 40 years before the revolt of 1857, which was later termed as 1st War of Indian Independence against British Colonialism, a battle was fought under the leadership of Baxi Jagabandhu of Odisha. Many scholars, researchers and historians have opined that the Paika Rebellion of 1817 was India's first organized armed rebellion against British Raj. He said that completion of two hundred years of this popular uprising was a special event. The legend of the heroics of Buxi Jagabandhu continues to inspire the people of Odisha. It is time, this struggle and sacrifice by a generation of Odia people got its due place in the annals of history.

The President said that the Paika uprising was in the nature of a rebellion by people of Odisha. It was aimed at upholding the rights of the Odia people and sovereignty of Odisha. Paika Rebellion was not only the rebellion of Paikas, it was a National War waged by ordinary people at the grassroots level who resented the dispossession of their Sovereign of his rights and the consequential repressive measures that followed. As we celebrate 200 years of the Paika Rebellion, it is time to remember the great history of our country and pay respect to our great heroes. Along with Buxi Jagabandhu it is time to pay respects to other great warriors of Paika Bidroha who fought side by side such as Dinabandhu Samantray Mohapatra, Dama Subudhi Manjaraj, Samanta Madhaba Chandra Routray (Dalbehera of Tapanga), Pindiki Bahubalendra, Krutibas Patsani and many more heroes of Paika Bidroha.

The President congratulated the Government for recognizing this great event of our cherished history of freedom struggle. He said that the year-long celebrations should be documented for future guidance at the end of the year. He also urged historians to concentrate on indigenous source material available in folk songs and folk stories narrated over the years by one generation to another.

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70th Independence Day: Government plans 'I stand by my country' campaign

NEW DELHI: The government hopes to trigger a citizen movement around the theme 'I stand by my country' as part of a twin celebration to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Quit India movement and the [70th Independence Day](#).

It plans a multimedia campaign that will focus on inspiring the young generation and instilling in them a sense of pride and responsibility, according to a brief the ministry of information and broadcasting has prepared for the campaign.

ET reviewed a copy of the brief. "It is a great opportunity to not only celebrate, but also reiterate our patriotic feelings, reinvigorate our resolve to make India an economic superpower, and revitalise our minds to make India the world's intellectual capital," it said. The government feels that with half of the country's population below the age of 25, such a campaign will help youngsters inherit the patriotic legacy and relate to major events that took place seven decades ago.

The Narendra Modi government will also focus on itself, saying that under it a new and resilient India is on the rise. "There is a new and upbeat dynamism, an innate desire in the people to see the nation rise to new heights of success" the I&B ministry brief said. "And today, the people are seeing it happen under the new government."

The celebrations will stress that in the next five years — in an era of determination, will and struggle — a 'New India' will be built which is "rid of corruption and black money" and fulfils the aspirations of its teeming millions, it said.

The campaign will also drive home the point that the country has already proved its worth in every field, be it science and [technology](#), [sports](#), [spirituality](#), [art](#), [space exploration](#), [economy](#) and defence and "today, India stands tall with pride on threshold of becoming a global power". The aim of the campaign, hence is to portray an India which is "bold and decisive, can secure its future, is on the path of reforms, and that cares", the brief said.

Separate taglines will be formed for the [Quit India anniversary](#) and the 70th Independence Day along with logos as well as concepts for both radio and TV to create a "befitting aura" around the two events.

ET had reported on July 12 that the government plans a social media campaign of motivating people to click their selfies with the [tricolour](#) and post them on social media websites, plus holding week-long celebrations on the Rajpath lawns from August 12-18.

Twitter polls and quizzes on [MyGov platform](#) are also planned to educate people about unsung heroes of India's Independence, ET had reported.

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