

**Remarks by Ambassador Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi at the Prayer Meeting organized by Indian community in Thailand to pay homage to His Majesty Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand at India Thai Chamber of Commerce, Bangkok**  
**20 October 2016**

**Friends,**

We all have assembled here today to pay our tributes to one of the greatest souls of Thailand and the world – His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej!

I have personally had a close relationship with Thailand that goes back many years. During this period, I have come to love the people of this country and empathize closely with them. I have been with them through the best of times and also through the difficult ones.

For all the Thai people I know, there is nobody who is more respected and more loved than His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. He is in fact revered by his people. He is the very symbol of Thainess.

A foreigner who has been associated with this country for some length of time cannot but have the same feelings for His Majesty as the people of this nation. For me as well, the King was the epitome of the best that any monarch can be.

This is truly the most monumental loss for this country and its people. There can be no bigger loss. His Majesty will long be remembered and respected both in Thailand and around the world for his devotion to his people.

His Majesty had initiated countless national development guidelines to solve his people's problems and remedy their plight in various aspects. All these focused on the happiness and benefits of the population through development of remote, rural areas as a means to reduce inequalities.

His Majesty was greatly respected at home and around the globe for his wisdom and dedication. He has left with a monumental legacy of love & benevolence for the future generations of Thai people.

I grieve with the people of Thailand at this most difficult of times. I feel the loss deeply. Their loss is mine as well.

I also know the resilience of the people of this land. It is one of the qualities that has been instilled in them by their beloved King. His Majesty would have not asked for anything other than fortitude and calm.

My President & Prime Minister have been deeply saddened by the demise of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and have sent messages conveying their condolences to the Government and people of the Kingdom.

In his condolence message, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has said –

Quote

*“During his reign and under his able guidance, India and Thailand have grown much closer in all spheres. His Majesty will be remembered for his contributions by the people of India along with the people of Thailand, as well as by those of the rest of the world.”*

Unquote

While praying to our respective Gods, we are united in what we seek from Him. I pray together with the people of this country that there be peace for the departed Soul.

Thank you

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