

**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR BHAGWANT BISHNOI AT PRAYER
MEETING HELD ON 27 DECEMBER 2016 TO PAY HOMAGE TO LATE
SHRI SHIV NATH RAI BAJAJ**

Subhash ji,
Kedar ji,
Mr. Chander Prakash
Parshotam ji,
Pervina behan ji,
Family members and Friends of the Bajaj family,

What greater tribute can one pay to Shiv Nath Rai Bajaj and Smt. Satwanti Kore Bajaj than to say that their passing away marks the end of an era.

Shiv Nath Rai ji was born in India and he came to this country in 1938. He truly belonged to both India and Thailand. He was a bridge between two great nations.

He built a business empire. And empowered numerous families.

Some people go to Universities. Others establish them. Shri Shiv Nath Rai ji was central to the establishment of the India Studies Center at Thammasat University.

He was a leader of the India Thai Chamber of Commerce and served as the President of two terms.

He lived not for himself, but for the community. He was central to the Hindu Samaj and establishment of the Dev Mandir.

The then King Bhumibol Adulyadej was himself present at the inauguration.

He was the first Indian to be honored by the award of the White Elephant by the Government of Thailand.

He was also the first Thai to be honored by the award of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman by the Government of India.

He was a legend. To him we pay homage today.

We also condole his immediate family today. His extended family includes the entire Indian community in Thailand.

We pray for peace for the departed souls, for Shri Shiv Nath Rai ji and Smt. Satwanti Kore ji.

Om Shanti Om Shanti.
