



राज निवास
दिल्ली-११००५४
RAJ NIWAS
DELHI-110054

AC (PLG) M.P.P.R.
Dairy No. 364
Date 17/5/12

सत्यमेव जयते
Director (Plg.) MPPR/TC,
J.D.A. Vikas Minar N. DELHI-2
Dy. No. 3337
Dated 21/5/12

Commr. (Plg.) - II
Despatch
F-360
F-359
16/5/12

23975022
Fax: 23937099

Please find enclosed a letter along with enclosures from Shri Vikram Chopra, Co-ordinating Editor, The Shakespeare Data Bank Illinois wherein he has made some suggestions about the Master Plan and has requested for permitting commercial activity atleast on Ground Floor on the existing shops on all 30 ft. (16/24 mtr. & above) wide roads.

Hon'ble L.G. has seen this and has desired that Commissioner (Planning)-II, DDA should look into these suggestions.

राज निवास
दिल्ली-११००५४
1881-C
15/5/12

(S.N. Misra)

Private Secretary to Lt. Governor

Encl. As above

Dr. S.P. Bansal,
Commissioner (Planning)-II, DDA

U.O. No.: 1005/112 Reg/512/6960

Dated: 11 May 2012

A. Link
for info
16/5/12

Ac (MPPR)
21/5

AD(P)2
21/5

Let thyself drive in the breath of God
and be as a leaf in the tempest. - Sri Aurobindo

When God created this world He made it such that it would look and feel -
all so beautiful, so complete -

Sun, Moon, mountains, blue skies, leaves, birds, and bees -
and then He finally sculpted His best, ... He created man and gave him a heart...

Vikram Chopra

Co-ordinating Editor
The Shakespeare Data Bank Illinois

Department of English
A.R.S.D. College
(University of Delhi) (retd)
Dhaura Kuan, New Delhi-110021.

Preferred Mailing Address:

C-2/117, Janakpuri,
New Delhi-110058.
Tel: 2550-9351, 2550-6238, 9958040713
chopra_vikram@rediffmail.com

30 April 2012

Respected Shri Tejender Khanna Ji
Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi &
Chairman, Delhi Development Authority
Delhi.

Sub: Some suggestions about the Master Plan - Request for Permitting Commercial activity at least on
Ground Floor on the existing shops on all 80 ft. (18/24 mtr. & above) wide roads.

Respected Sir,

With due respect I seek to present before you some long-standing but deeply-felt suggestions and most genuine requests for your kind consideration. While numerous people have benefitted from the earlier version of the Master Plan there are some basic shortcomings because of which the shops/establishments which are on the unnotified roads are still suffering and languishing in misery. For a long time I have been pleading with the relevant authorities to take at least one of the following measures all of which are appropriate and justified on legal, human and moral grounds:-

To grant permission to shops existing till Jan. 2006. While this may preferably be done in all cases but specially in the case of roads with 18/24 mtr. or wider ROW, because these roads are mostly either peripheral (as they are on the periphery of the blocks) or on the main highways. Moreover, as most of the roads which had good number of shops have already been notified; only a few roads are left. Kindly allow mixed land use facility on these roads also. Thousands of new shops have come up on the notified roads. I hope you will agree that it is unfair and unjust to allow new shops on these roads and order the closure/sealing of the shops which have been in existence for so many years. Many middle class families have invested their life time savings in these shops. Your kind gesture will not only put an end to the unfortunate discrimination but also ensure a just and humane treatment of the people who have already suffered huge losses.

In a few words my request is:

- y) kindly allow the MLU facility on all roads (60/80 ft. Wide). Being confined only to the ground floor the commercial activity will be very very limited;
- z) at least permit the shops existing on these unnotified roads at the time of notification of the Master Plan;
- aa) such a permission will not create any big problem because such shops are few in number;
- bb) besides providing tremendous relief to the suffering business community it will also add a touch of fairness, equity, justice and generosity to the present govt.

I may assure you that besides, goodwill and grace that this gesture will bring you will be earning the blessings of so many suffering hearts.

With kind regards,

Dr. Vikram Chopra
(University of Delhi)
C-2/117, Janakpuri,
New Delhi-110058
9958040713. chopra_vikram@rediffmail.com

I am certain of nothing but of the holiness of the Heart's affections - John Keats
Above all and in all, be sincere - Vivekananda
utilise the opportunity to share

Dr. Vikram Chopra taught English literature for more than four decades in ARSD College, University of Delhi. An ardent lover of Shakespeare, he has a doctorate on "Shakespeare's Major Tragedies: A Study in the Context of Indian Approaches" wherein he has explored the spiritual accent in Shakespeare's tragedies in the light of Indian thought. Founder Secretary of the Shakespeare Society of India (1987-1993), he is currently on its Executive Committee. He was Co-ordinating Editor for India in the *Shakespeare Data Bank*, Illinois. He is a member of the International



Committee of Correspondents for *World Shakespeare Bibliography* maintained by *Shakespeare Quarterly*. Dr. Chopra has presented several papers in national and international seminars and has published in various Indian and foreign journals that include *The Literary Criterion*, *Indian Journal of English Studies*, *Bulletin of the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture*, *Hamlet Studies*, *Shakespeare Bulletin* (New York), and *Folio* (Holland). He has edited a volume of critical essays: *Shakespeare: Varied Perspectives*. This volume, with a Foreword by Professor Kenneth Muir, contains articles written by eminent scholars including those from Australia, Holland, Japan, U.K. and the U.S.A. The volume was well received both in India and abroad.

Dr. Chopra has recently brought out a book on Shakespeare entitled *Shakespeare: The Indian Icon* in which he has presented a broad and comprehensive view of Shakespeare's reception and his gradual assimilation into India's cultural ethos. The book covers a whole century of India's response: social, cultural, academic. The book was released by Hon'ble Dr. Karan Singh, Member of Parliament and Chairman, Indian Council of Cultural Relations in the presence of distinguished scholars and theatre personalities.

Dr. Chopra belongs to a family with great patriotic and humanitarian tradition. While his grandfather was highly religious minded spiritual thinker, his father Dr. Madan Mohan Chopra was a member of Shaheed Bhagat Singh's party and made substantial contribution to India's freedom struggle. He had the blessed privilege of working with Lala Lajpat Rai, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chander Bose, Sardar Patel and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He was the Founder Secretary and later National President of the All India Freedom Fighters Samiti.

Dr. Vikram Chopra has also led a life dedicated to society. Service to Art and Literature and the promotion of love and joy in mankind are the basic creeds of his life. Shakespeare has been the love and *raison d'être* of his academic pursuits. *Shakespeare: The Indian Icon* is yet another proof of his devotion to the immortal Bard.

चन्द्र शेखर साहू
CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU



121
D.O. No. 617
ग्रामीण विकास राज्य मंत्री
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली-110 011
MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI-110 011

12th September, 2012

Respected Mr. Jaipal Reddy Sir,

I am forwarding herewith a request of Dr. Vikram Chopra, Director of English ARSD College, Dhaula Kuan for granting one time amnesty and regularising the existing shops on the un notified roads at least C,D,E,F categories which are owned mostly by people from middle and lower income group. He has further represented that the total number of such shops constitute a miniscule portion of the total commercial activities in Delhi. The Govt. may put a ban on further commercialization of residential area but should not resort to closure of existing shops in un notified roads as this will make thousands of business families suffer huge financial loss. The middle class people have invested their life time savings to open a shop for their children as well as for their old age comfort. Therefore, he made a request for reconsideration or re-survey of the roads in the Master Plan 2021.

May I therefore request you to kindly look into the matter for appropriate action.

With Regards -

Yours sincerely

(Chandra Sekhar Sahu)
(Chandra Sekhar Sahu)

Shri Jaipal Reddy
Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development
Govt. of India, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.

Hari Shankar Gupta
Consultant (PG)



122
Ministry of Urban Development
Government of India
Room No. 130-C, Nirman Bhawan
New Delhi-110011

D. 145/1105/190

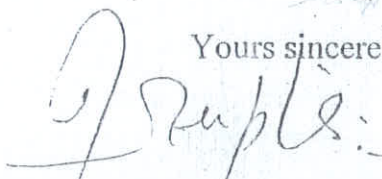
31st January, 2007.

Dear Sh. Chopra,

This is in reference to your letter addressed to Hon'ble Minister,
~~Shri~~ Ajay Maken regarding suggestions for carrying out commercial
activities in Delhi on 80 Ft. wide roads. The Minister has assured that your
suggestions will get due consideration while finalizing MPD-2021.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(HARI SHANKER GUPTA)

Sh. Vikram Chopra
C-2/117, Janakpuri
New Delhi 58.



प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय
नई दिल्ली 110 001
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
NEW DELHI 110 001

14 January 1986

MANI SHANKAR AIYAR
Joint Secretary

122-JS(A)/86

Dear Dr. Chopra,

Thank you for keeping me informed
of the work of the All India Freedom
Fighters Samiti. I am glad ^{we} were
able to sort out together the question
of Prime Minister's visit to Patradevi.

Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Madan Mohan Chopra,
General Secretary,
All India Freedom Fighters Samiti,
329, Faiz Road,
Karol Bagh,
New Delhi-110 005.

SHAKESPEARE: THE INDIAN ICON

edited by Vikram Chopra

Foreword by Jay L. Halio, University of Delaware

The Readers Paradise, New Delhi-110002.

~ a few words from scholars, saints and statesmen

"magnificent and gorgeous", "enormous and monumental contribution",
"a most beautiful book in keeping with its subject", "seems to be a work of
teams of scholars - an admirable feat!", "mammoth and amazing work of
scholarship", "astounding corpus of wisdom", "an all time piece of work".

"astounding corpus of wisdom"

~ Dr. Karan Singh, Senior Statesman and Member Rajya Sabha,
Chairman, Indian Council of Cultural Relations

"enormous and monumental contribution"

- Amal Allana
Chairperson, National School of Drama

amazing work of scholarship" ... going through the book one gets a feel of sitting in a library.

~ Professor R.W. Desai
Shakespeare & Milton scholar, University of Delhi

The book, which is a collection of many essays on the great poet and his works, especially in the context of Indian ethos, is undoubtedly praiseworthy... I pray and hope that the book will be received enthusiastically by the admirers of Shakespeare all over the world.

~ Swami Prabhananda, General Secretary
Head, Sri Ramakrishna Mission Math, Belur, Howrah, Kolkata

It is a lavish production which speaks for itself. It is an honour to be asked to write on the volume. Shakespeare image has touched Indian's sensibility so deeply that the image has got transformed into an Icon. The book will attract all lovers of book productions and Shakespeare. There is still a long work to do. Fortunately, we have deeply devoted scholars like Dr. Chopra.

~ S. Nagarajan, renowned scholar
Professor Emeritus, Central University of Hyderabad

I am glad and proud to possess a copy of *The Icon* which is truly iconic of the great and longstanding interest our country has had in Shakespeare. A work of Vikram Chopra's personal love and devotion to Shakespeare it is very handsomely produced.

~ S. Viswanathan, UGC Emeritus Fellow
Dean, School of Humanities, Central University of Hyderabad

What an ambitious undertaking it is! Its sheer volume is breath-taking!... Am sure scholars will find this not merely exhaustive, but very rewarding. ... a monumental effort, indeed.

~ Dr. Ragini Ramchandra, University of Bangalore,
Editor, *The Literary Criterion*

Various appreciative reviews and comments are a tribute to a man who has single-handedly done something which posterity will not let willingly die. It is the work of life-time. How many of us can thus bask in the sunshine of fulfilment.

~ Amaresh Datta, Professor Emeritus
Gauhati & Dibrugarh Universities

Indian Bardolatry: A Book of All Time

Vikram Chopra, an indefatigable lover of Shakespeare and a specialist in Indian criticism of Shakespeare, has brought out a beautiful book on Indian reception of Shakespeare. The large-sized 862 pages volume gives the lie to the Greek saying attributed to Callimachus, 'a great book is a great evil' (*mega biblion, mega kakon*). *Shakespeare: The Indian Icon*, a mammoth and magnificent work, is the editor Vikram Chopra's labour of love and is worth its weight in gold.

~ Visvanath Chatterjee,
ex-Professor & Head, Deptt. of English, Jadavpur University

Vikram Chopra, an intense and passionate lover of Shakespeare, has now come up with this compellingly readable compendium that carries an appropriate title, '*The Indian Icon*'.

~ *The Hindu*, Dec. 27, 2011

Contd....p2/-

Words from Abroad

It is the most beautiful book in keeping with its subject, with India's great contribution to his heritage. I shall read it with much attention, and treasure it in the future for its own sake and for yours.

~ Professor Helen Cooper,
Faculty of English, Cambridge University, England

The handsome copy of *Shakespeare: The Indian Icon* arrived No other gift could have been more appreciated. I shall sing its praises to all my acquaintances, professional and personal. ... Deep appreciation.

~ Ann Jennaille Cook, Professor Emerita,
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA,
Vice-Chairman, International Shakespeare Association.

I am profoundly honoured by greeting and your gift; not the least the blessings of being at Stratford is to be focus of so much goodwill from so many gifted people around the world! I hope very much you will visit in person at your earliest opportunity.

~ Michael Dobson, Director Shakespeare Institute, Stratford-upon-Avon and
Professor of Shakespeare Studies, University of Birmingham.

It is good to know of your missionary zeal for Shakespeare and I wish you every success in your work.

~ Stanley Wells, Director Shakespeare Birthplace Trust,
Stratford-upon-Avon

We are absolutely delighted of having opened the neatly wrapped precious parcel containing your wonderful book *Shakespeare: The Indian Icon*. We will enjoy your quotations and true heart feelings with our people and this wonderful edition will certainly credit our library and enhance India's reputation on Shakespeare's Studies and Performances.

~ Carlos A. Drocchi, Director Ejecutivo (Director Executive),
Fundacion Shakespeare
Argentina

Thank you for sending me your book, *Shakespeare: The Indian Icon*. ... I have recommended the book to colleagues and I have enjoyed reading it myself, and will go over it again soon...

Thanks and best regards

~ Professor Abdulla Al-Dabbagh
Chair, Department of English Literature,
Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences,
UAE University, United Arab Emirates

The title of *Shakespeare: The Indian Icon* suits this book which contains a great deal of useful information on Indian response to Shakespeare: social, cultural and academic. It is a voluminous collection of essays on Shakespearean interpretation, adaptation, appropriation, performances, films and so on. Readers will understand well that the relationship between the Indians and Shakespeare is solid and unique. The Indians have found a significant correlation between their thought, ethos and humanist moral aesthetics, and his multidimensional and multilayered world. ... The Shakespeare Society of Japan proposed me to write a book review for *Shakespeare News*... Perhaps I will write it in Japanese because it will be much easier for the Japanese people to read it and more helpful to spread Indian ideas and views in Japan. But if you want me to write it in English, please tell me. Your book will be internationally known because the next volume of *Multicultural Shakespeare* will public my English version of the book review.

best wishes,

~ Professor Yoshiko Kawachi
Kyorin University, Tokyo, Japan

Thank you for that immense parcel with your *magnum opus*. It is immense. What an achievement. It must have taken you a lot of effort to produce this labour of love! And very timely too, since such perceptions of our individual countries are eagerly needed these days.

~ A.J. Hoenselaars, University of Utrecht,
The Netherlands

I perused your magnificent book and I am absolutely overwhelmed by the enormous work that you have done. This hefty volume of yours is a veritable mine of information on Shakespeare in India.

~ M.K. Byrski
Director, Institute of Asian Studies, Warsaw, Poland

Dr. Vikram Chopra
(University of Delhi)
C-2/117, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
Mob.9958040713. chopra_vikram@rediffmail.com

126

Let thyself drive in the breath of God
and be as a leaf in the tempest. - Sri Aurobindo

When God created this world He made it such that it would look and feel -
all so beautiful, so complete -
Sun, Moon, mountains, blue skies, leaves, birds, and bees -
and then He finally sculpted His best, ~ He created man and gave him a heart...

Vikram Chopra

Co-ordinating Editor
The Shakespeare Data Bank Illinois

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chopra_vikram@rediffmail.com



are Shakespeare's words adorning the entrance at Folgers.

The fascinating world of Shakespeare is in itself a great 'WELCOME'
to every human heart that throbs in the universe. Shakespeare opens
the gates of a ripened and joyful understanding of life.
Wherever there is joy, wherever there is wisdom, wherever there is beauty,
wherever there is love, Shakespeare will find a home.
(a slight extension of Emerson's tribute to Thoreau).

With choicest greetings and most pious sentiments

Dear Friends, Brothers and Sisters,

April 23 - the great day

Shakespeare was a great benefactor of humanity. The master artist taught us
the art of filling our lives with tranquil joy, peace, purity, love, loveliness, goodness
and grace. May all the riches and graces of life, "Before, behind thee, and on every
hand/Enwheel thee round!" May the journey of your life always remain filled with
an aura of sanctity and creativity, bliss and blessedness!

Shakespearely yours,
Vikram

I am certain of nothing but of the holiness of the Heart's affections - John Keats
Above all and in all, be sincere - Vivekananda

Book on the Bard

RITIKA SARKAR

EVENT Launch of Vikram Chopra's "Shakespeare: the Indian Icon"



Retired as an associate professor after teaching English literature for more than 40 years, Vikram Chopra has now come up with his book, "Shakespeare: the Indian Icon". Chopra is the founder secretary of The Shakespeare Society of India and also has a doctorate on "Shakespeare's major tragedies: A study in the context of Indian approaches". Shakespeare is a world icon, whereas "Shakespeare: the Indian icon" represents an Indian tribute to the supreme poet. The book is a collection of critical essays about Shakespeare written by eminent scholars. The contents of this volume have been divided into four sections. The first, titled "The Panoram: A Few Gleanings", gives a view of the impact of Shakespeare on scholars like Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi. The remaining three sections consist of scholarly essays from the masters of "craft and art", "vision and value" and "cross cultural perceptions".

Dr. Karan Singh, distinguished poet, scholar and chairman of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, who consented to release the book, added, "Shakespeare is one of the greatest playwrights and poets ever. His great literature includes every emotion of human life. This book of more than 800 pages is an astounding corpus of work by Professor Chopra." The guest of honour was Amal Allana, and the distinguished speakers included Professor R.W. Desai, Sandeep Marwa, Rajiva Verma and Lushian Dubey. "I have intensively been working on this book for the last one and a half years. There is a lot for everyone in this book, from a philosopher to a common reader. It has the sense of joy, the freedom, wisdom, beauty, virtue and celebration of life. Like life has numerous shades, so does Shakespeare, and that is why he is loved and admired in India," said Chopra.

The book launch ended with Kathakali performances of scenes from Shakespeare's "Othello" by actor

THE HINDU - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2011

BOOK REVIEW

ANURAG K. SINGH

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under 'Read Article', the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual book will not be acknowledged in response to copyright.

No land is his, he belongs to all

Indian Postcard

The Bard of Stratford-upon-Avon had a prophetic vision about his own future, when he chose Cassius, a man with lean and hungry look (perhaps, a subtle satirical portrait of a crafty central character that distinguished him from the rest of the conspirators), to remark: 'How many ages hence shall this our lofty scene be acted over in states unborn and accents yet unknown.'

It is for some Shakespeare could not have included India among 'the states unborn' because he very much knew the region called India and had referred to it directly in seven plays, and indirectly in some of the others, by calling it 'India' or 'East Indies'. India for him meant, the land of diamonds and stones (Henry IV), gold and sunshine (Midsummer Night's Dream). Besides, the tragic prince of Troy, who

had fallen in love with Cressida, 'her bed is in India, there she lies, a pearl'. It is also interesting that Shakespeare was aware of the Indian custom of dowry, as in The Merchant of Venice. Braccio says that the heartless start veiling an Indian beauty' - and the 'beauteous start' in this context, is contrasted with the dark face it tries to conceal.

Cosmic appeal

While Shakespeare had known about the existence of a country called India, the latter got acquainted with the poet only more than two centuries later, thanks to Lord Macaulay, who was instrumental in introducing English in the Indian educational curriculum. Midsummer Night's Dream was translated as early as in 1892 by R. Krishnamacharya in Sanskrit under the title Vasantavilasaṁgrahaṁ. Beginning is so because it was clear to

Kalidasa's Abhigyanashukla, though not thematically, is the dramatic word-painting of Nature. Part because many of the tragic characters of Shakespeare have cosmic appeal - King Lear, for example, can be any old man in any modern society the world over - every linguistic region in India began to acquire its own Shakespeare by adapting his plays in a manner compatible with its native cultural mores. To illustrate, when Ponnand Samband Mudaliar took the central theme from Hamlet and adapted it in Tamil during the early 1920s, he brought in a step-mother (in the place of step-father) for Hamlet, as the traditional Tamil cultural psyche would not have accepted a woman having a second husband.

Vikram Chopra, an intense and passionate lover of Shakespeare, has now come up with this compellingly readable compendium that



SHAKESPEARE - The Indian Icon: Edited by Vikram Chopra; Pub. by The Readers Paradise, 478/23, Anand Road, Bangalore. New Delhi-110002. Rs. 1995.

carries an appropriate subtitle, 'the Indian Icon'. The book is divided into five sections: The Panoram - a few gleanings; Shakespeare's evolution and assimilation in the cultural

Chopra has anthologized the articles, thoughts, and reflections of eminent and not-so-eminent Indians, belonging to various walks of life - poets, philosophers, public intellectuals, and performers. They include Mahatma Gandhi, Aurobindo, Mulk Raj Anand, R.K. Narayan, Swami Ranganathananda, Uma Shankar Joshi, K.R. Srinivasa Iyengar and Abraham Lincoln.

Gandhi quotes from King Lear to support his view regarding 'moral action': 'Lear is not love. When it is mingled with regards that stands / Aloof from th' entire point'. He says that what he considers 'moral action' should be free from fear, or compulsion or self-interest and this is strengthened by what Shakespeare has said in King Lear.

It is ironical that Gandhi should have quoted from King Lear because his spiritual guru Tolstoy hated Shakespeare and his opin-

ion, the German academic had admired the playwright, a stature which he didn't deserve. Tolstoy, in fact, took a special dislike for King Lear, for which George Orwell had given the reason that during his fading years, Tolstoy saw himself in Shakespeare's portrayal of Lear, a lone and tragic figure, who had a noble earlier, given away all his lands to the poor and started leading an ascetic life. According to Orwell, it was 'a quarrel between the religious and humanist attitudes towards life'.

Chopra's introduction is a meaningful tool to guide us towards a full comprehension of this insightful volume. He is focused on highlighting the many facets of the world's foremost poet and playwright and demonstrating how Shakespeare is very much our contemporary, belonging to every region of the world.

With regards, Vikram

Book is also under consideration and review process of The Indian Express, The Tribune, India Today, Outlook, Book Review, Bulletin of Rama Krishna Mission Institute, and The Statesman, Kolkata