

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

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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

Respected Shri P.S. Uttarwar Ji  
Director (Plg.), DDA  
DDA Office, Manglapuri,  
Palam, New Delhi.

विदेशीय नौकर (अवर)  
राज्यी संख्या (पत्र) 30-MPD  
दिनांक 10/5/12

OFFICE OF THE DIR (Plg.)  
MPR/TC, D.D.A. N. DELHI-2  
Dy.No. 3480  
Dated 23/5/12

30 April 2012

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 2021, 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:

- kk) 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;
- ll) at least permit the shops existing on these unnotified roads at the time of notification of the Master Plan;
- mm) such a permission will not create any big problem because such shops are few in number;
- nn) 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,

*Vikram Chopra*  
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

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10-5-12  
Suggestion received through  
Email already sent vide  
Dy.No. 29 MPD - 23/5/12



### *Dr. Vikram Chopra: A Profile*

**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.

C-2/117, Janakpuri,  
New Delhi-110058

[chopra\\_vikram@rediffmail.com](mailto:chopra_vikram@rediffmail.com)  
9958040713

Hari Shankar Gupta  
Consultant (PG)



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

D. 145/mos/vs/07

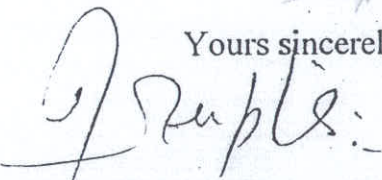
31<sup>st</sup> January, 2007.

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.



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## 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 Jennailie 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...

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](mailto:chopra_vikram@rediffmail.com)





अतिरिक्त निजी सचिव  
शहरी विकास राज्य मंत्री

भारत सरकार

निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली-110011  
ADDITIONAL PRIVATE SECRETARY  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
NIRMAN BHAVAN, NEW DELHI-110011

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Dear Shri Chopra,

D-2463/MOS/UD/07  
Dt. 15-11-07

I am to acknowledge your letter dated 31st August 2007 addressed to Shri  
Ajay Maken, Hon'ble MOS (UD) regarding suggestions about the Master Plan  
2021 in regard to commercial activity on ground floor.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(P.K. Sinha)

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

9888 52631



204/c

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH JI,  
HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA  
7, RACE COURSE ROAD,  
NEW DELHI.

**Sub: Some Suggestions about the Flaws in the Master Plan 2021 - Request for Permitting Commercial Activity at least on Ground Floor on the existing shops on all 80 ft. wide (18 mtr. or more) wide roads.**

Most Respected Sir,

Good wishes and greetings!

I wish to bring to your kind notice that while Master Plan 2021 has brought great relief to a large number of traders, a part of the traders have **suffered an unfortunate neglect** and are still living in an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear. These traders have their shops on the so far un-notified roads. You are, therefore, requested to kindly **look into** the fate of these neglected business persons **and save them from misery and suffering.**

**The Logic for making the above request:**

The business atmosphere in Delhi till only last year, was quite relaxed and open and people were undertaking business ventures with a carefree assurance. As the entire atmosphere in Delhi's business world was charged with enthusiasm and excitement, people most of them middle class people, **invested their life-time savings to open a shop for their children as well as for their old age comfort.** The new law that came into effect in 2007 cannot, in fact, **should not upset the lives and existence of the already established premises.** Canons of social fairness only demand that any govt. policy should come into effect from the date of notification. It is in this context that I find the criterion of 70% or 50% for the commercial/mixed land use rather **anomalous and discriminatory.** Even presuming that it was wrong on their part to use a residential premises for a commercial purpose, then allowing roads with a **greater misuse** and subjecting to the **death of closure**, those with **less business activity** is like **condoning a greater wrong and punishing a lesser offence.** For the **same fault one guilty person rejoices in his festivities while the other sulks in misery.**

India is a free democratic country and every individual has a right to earn his livelihood and the right to **live with dignity and honour** without being subjected to any kind of **discrimination and injustice.** Whether there are 4 shops or 40 on a road, **the nature of offence is the same.** The total number of shops on the un-notified roads will hardly constitute a miniscule portion



(perhaps just 1%) of the total commercial activity in Delhi. The Govt. may put a **ban on the opening of new shops to check further commercialisation** but to order the sealing or closure of the existing ones is going to bring untold misery and suffering to **thousands of business families who have already suffered heavy financial losses and are finding it hard to pay their loans and debts.**

### Regularisation of Colonies

When the Govt. can adopt such a liberal and generous attitude towards regularising hundreds of unauthorised colonies, a slightly liberal humanitarian approach can spare the misery and tension of hundreds of businessmen who are worried about their families and future. Therefore, I feel that while Govt. may take a strict, even rigid stand against encroachments on public land, and punish gross violations of other kind, granting a one-time amnesty and regularising the existing shops seems to be the 'only' desirable step; this may at least be done in case of shops in C,D,E,F, categories which are owned primarily by middle/lower income people.

### **A Personal Note:**

You must be aware of the tragedy and trauma of Partition and how people rebuilt their 'lives' by their toil and struggle offering their sweat and blood to make provisions for themselves and their children. Whereas the Master Plan has brought some relief to many, those unfortunate one who could not come in the safety circle are languishing in misery and privation because of sealing and closure. Because of your long tenure and your deep involvement in the affairs of the people you are one of the few who understand Delhi's problems thoroughly. God has gifted you not only with Administrative skill and vision but also endowed you with concerns of society and human ethics. Mercy is higher than justice. So is a broad and generous humane approach which ensures maximum good of the largest number.

A few suggestions regarding the Master Plan 2021 are also enclosed for your consideration.

With warmest regards,

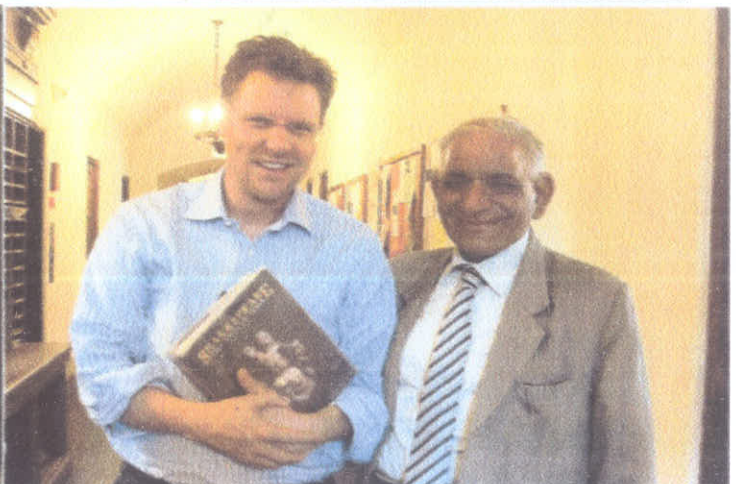
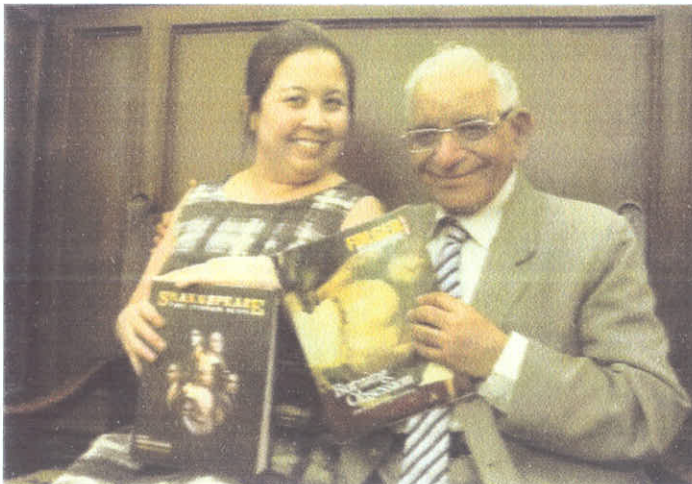
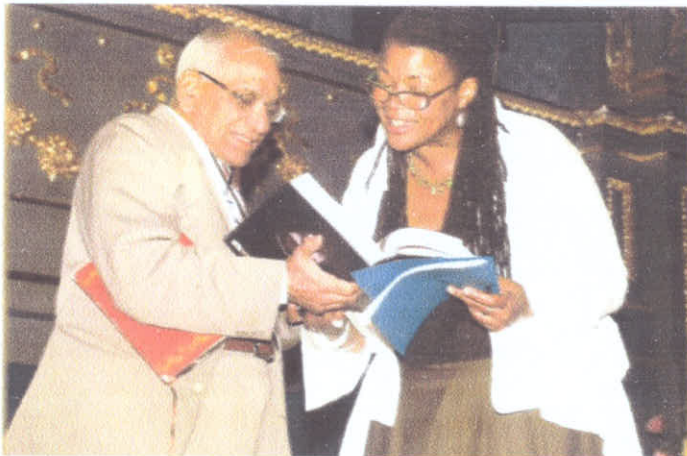
(Dr. Vikram Chopra)

Dr. Vikram Chopra  
Dept. of English  
A.R.S.D. College (retd.)  
University of Delhi  
Res. C-2/117, Janakpuri,  
New Delhi-110058.  
Mob.9971006824



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# **Shakespeare: The Indian Icon ~ a few glimpses** by ~ Vikram Chopra



- 1) Release of the book at India International Centre, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi – 11 July 2011.  
(L to R) Lushin Dubey (Theatre Personality), Professor R.W. Desai (Delhi Univ.), Vikram Chopra, Hon'ble Dr. Karan Singh (Chairman, ICCR), Dr. Amal Allana (Chairperson, National School of Drama), Dr. Sandeep Marwah (Director, Asian Film & Television Academy), Professor Rajiva Verma (Delhi Univ.)
- 2) Professor Martin Prochazka, Charles University, Director, 9<sup>th</sup> World Shakespeare Congress at Prague (17-22 July '11).
- 3) Professor Jean Jennet (Toronto University, Canada)
- 4) Professor Anne Jennalie Cook (Emerita Professor of English, Vanderbilt University, USA and Vice Chairman, International Shakespeare Association).
- 5) Librarian – The Folger Shakespeare Library Washington D.C.
- 6) Professor Michael Witmore, Director Folger Shakespeare Library

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201/c

ॐ

कर्मयोगी

डा० मदनमोहन चोपड़ा  
राष्ट्र और मानवता  
को  
समर्पित जीवन



*A Life Dedicated  
to  
Country and Humanity*

देशभक्ति व कर्मयोग की भावना से परिपूर्ण  
संवेदनशील व तपस्यामय जीवन



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