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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...

I-9

**Vikram Chopra**

Co-ordinating Editor

The Shakespeare Data Bank Illinois

Department of English

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Dhaura Kuan, New Delhi-110021.

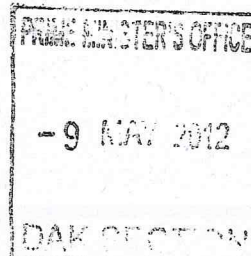
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Respected Dr. Man Mohan Singh Ji  
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India  
New Delhi.

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:

- 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;
- at least permit the shops existing on these unnotified roads at the time of notification of the Master Plan;
- such a permission will not create any big problem because such shops are few in number;
- 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  
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*Request for Personal Appointment.*  
Sir - I shall be grateful to get an opportunity to present my book *Shakespeare the Indian Icon* which has received world appreciation. I shall feel honoured to share some of the deep social and national concerns and offer my service for the welfare of our country & humankind. Grateful for a personal appointment's regard  
- 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

357/5612

## *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.

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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 Jennallie 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

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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

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 scripted His best, ... He created man and gave him a heart...

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21 June '07

Dr. Man Mohan Singh

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India  
North Block, N. Delhi

Dear & Respected Dr. Man Mohan Singh,

One is filled with a sense of joy and  
pride to think that our great country is being  
led by such a worthy Prime Minister. Like you  
may our country achieve more and more excellence  
in various fields of economic & social development

I am enclosing my submission regarding  
the proposed Master Plan for Delhi. There are some  
fundamental flaws in the concept which deny  
the basic right of livelihood to guide many, though  
overall the Plan aims at general good. I have

even some suggestions which will end the  
discriminatory injustice and promote happiness and  
welfare of the largest number.  
Hope my submission will receive  
your kind attention and you'll kindly mark them  
for appropriate consideration. With kind regards

I am certain of nothing but of the holiness of the Heart's affections. - John Keats

Above all and in all, be sincere - Vivekananda

Vikram Chopra

प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय  
Prime Minister's Office  
दक्षिण अंगण  
Dak Section

Hari Shankar Gupta  
Consultant (PG)



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

D. 145/mos/190

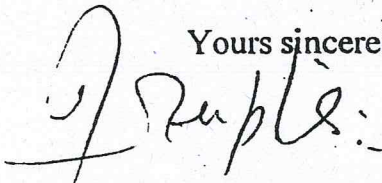
31<sup>st</sup> January, 2007.

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.



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

MANI SHANKAR AIYAR  
Joint Secretary

14 January 1986  
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~~<sup>we</sup> were  
able to sort out together the question  
of Prime Minister's visit to Patradevi.

Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,

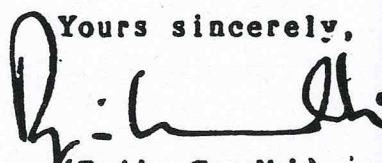
Dr. Madan Mohan Chopra,  
General Secretary,  
All India Freedom Fighters Samiti,  
329, Faiz Road,  
Karol Bagh,  
New Delhi-110 005.



प्रधान मन्त्री, भारत  
PRIME MINISTER,  
INDIA.

Thank you for your sympathy.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi symbolised united, creative India, but her vision encompassed the well-being of people everywhere. Her personality was unclouded by narrowness of any kind. Her dedication and humanity will remain an inspiration for all of us.

Yours sincerely,  
  
(Rajiv Gandhi)