

Two Achiever Alumni at global event London April 2016
Vishal Bhardwaj and envoy **Navtej Sarna** hail bard's magic of words

INDIA IN SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS



- The earliest reference to India occurs in 'King Henry VI' (Act III, Scene I): "My crown is in my heart, not on my head; not decked with diamonds and Indian stones, nor to be seen: my crown is called content, a crown it is that seldom kings enjoy"
- Troilus, the tragic prince of Troy, who had fallen in love with Cressida says, in 'Troilus and Cressida', 'her bed is in India, there she lies, a pearl' (Act I, Scene I)
- In 'The Merchant of Venice', India, finds a mention on more than one occasion. Protagonist Bassanio makes a reference to his friend Antonio's trade with India: What, not one hit?/ From Tripolis, from Mexico, and England,/ From Lisbon, Barbary, and India? (Act III, Scene II).

■ Indian high commissioner to Britain Navtej Sarna (left) in Stratford-upon-Avon. HT PHOTO

Noted director **Vishal Bhardwaj** and High Commissioner **Navtej Sarna** added Indian tributes to events in Britain to mark 400 years of William Shakespeare's death, recalling how the bard was appropriated as an "Indian Shakespeare" over the ages.

At Stratford-upon-Avon, a town synonymous with Shakespeare, Sarna unfurled the tricolour, addressed a 600-strong gathering on behalf of the diplomatic corps, and recalled the many layers at which India engaged and appropriated Shakespeare over the years.

Bhardwaj, who says he is more of a music composer and would like to be remembered as such, is best known for his film trilogy based on Shakespeare's plays: *Maqbool* (2003, *Macbeth*), *Omkara* (2006, *Othello*) and *Haider* (2014, *Hamlet*).

"I came across Lamb's 'Macbeth', and when I started reading, it fascinated me. Our country's cops would be the best witches. I also remembered Shakespeare winking at the audience at the end of the film 'Angoor' 1982, based on 'Comedy of Errors' .

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