

Dinesh D'Souza Pleads Guilty to Campaign Finance Fraud

By Arun Kumar, IANS

WASHINGTON — Dinesh D'Souza, an Indian American conservative commentator and author who shot to fame with a highly critical 2012 documentary of President Barack Obama, has pleaded guilty to violating federal

campaign finance law.

D'Souza, 53, of San Diego, Calif., admitted to exceeding donor limits in 2012 by arranging for others to give to the New York Senate campaign of Republican candidate Wendy Long, Manhattan's Indian American U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said May 20.

He also admitted to making false statements about those donations.

A former policy advisor to President Ronald Reagan, D'Souza directed a 2012 documentary, "2016: Obama's America," that was highly critical of President Barack Obama and based on

his book "The Roots of Obama's Rage."

According to the indictment, D'Souza and his wife contributed \$10,000 to Long's campaign. He then directed associates to contribute on behalf of themselves and their spouses, totaling \$20,000. D'Souza was to reimburse them.

Federal election law limits individual campaign contributions to a federal candidate to \$2,500 each for a primary and general election campaign.

The law also bars any person from making contributions in the name of others or reimbursing another person's contribution.

Long lost to Democratic incumbent Kirsten Gillibrand in 2012.

She and other Republicans, like Senator Ted Cruz, have argued that the government was unfairly targeting D'Souza for his political affiliation, according to CNN.

D'Souza argued for the charges to be dismissed on grounds of selective prosecution.

Last week, a judge denied that motion, citing "no evidence" to support it.

"Following the court's ruling denying Dinesh D'Souza's baseless claim of selective prosecution, D'Souza now has admitted, through his guilty plea, what we

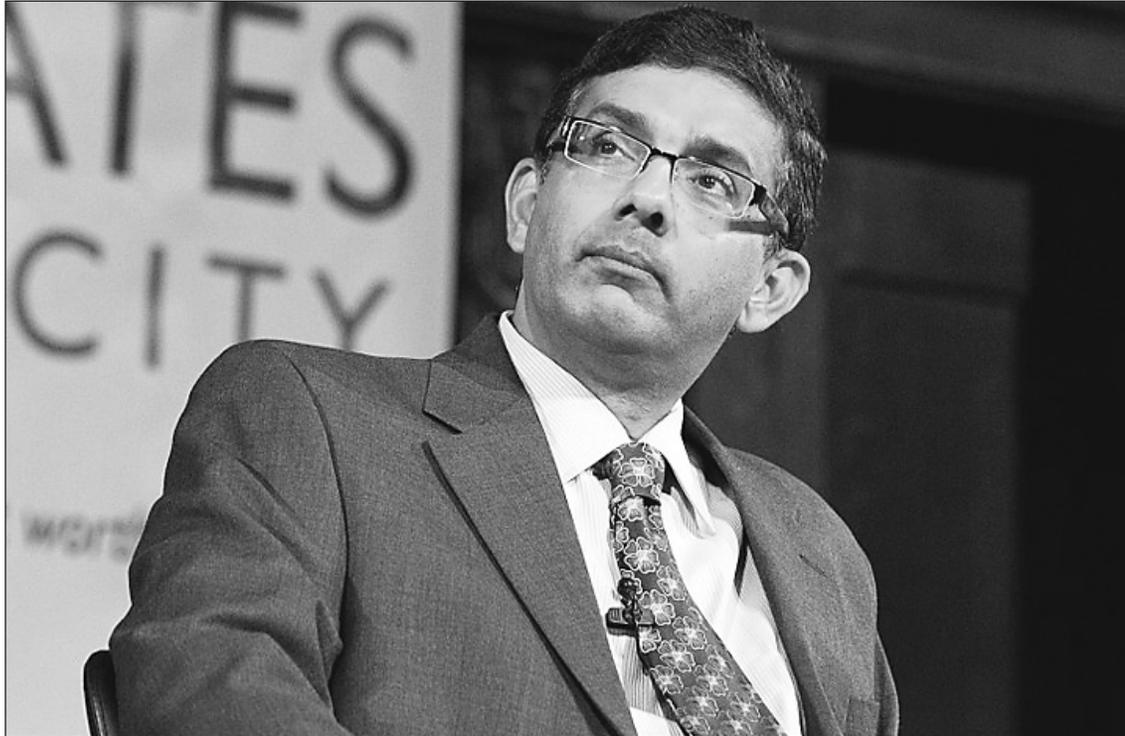
have asserted all along — that he knowingly and intentionally violated federal election laws," Bharara said in a statement.

"As our office's record reflects, we will investigate and prosecute violations of federal law, particularly those that undermine the integrity of the democratic electoral process, without regard to the defendant's political persuasion or party affiliation. That is what we did in this case and what we will continue to do."

Meanwhile, Deadline Hollywood cited D'Souza's producer Gerald Molen as saying the indictment was politically motivated but that it would not stop the upcoming sequel to "2016: Obama's America," which has already set a July 4 release date.

D'Souza says his film imagines what today's world would be like if America had never existed because "we are now living in the America that we warned our fellow citizens could come to pass if President Obama were re-elected."

Considered the second-most-successful political documentary in U.S. box office history, "2016" has made more than \$33 million since it was released in July 2012 during the heat of the presidential elections, according to Deadline.



Dinesh D'Souza, an Indian American conservative commentator and author of "2016: Obama's America," which was highly critical of President Barack Obama. (Getty Images)

Sankara Eye Foundation Gets Over \$2M from Anonymous Donor

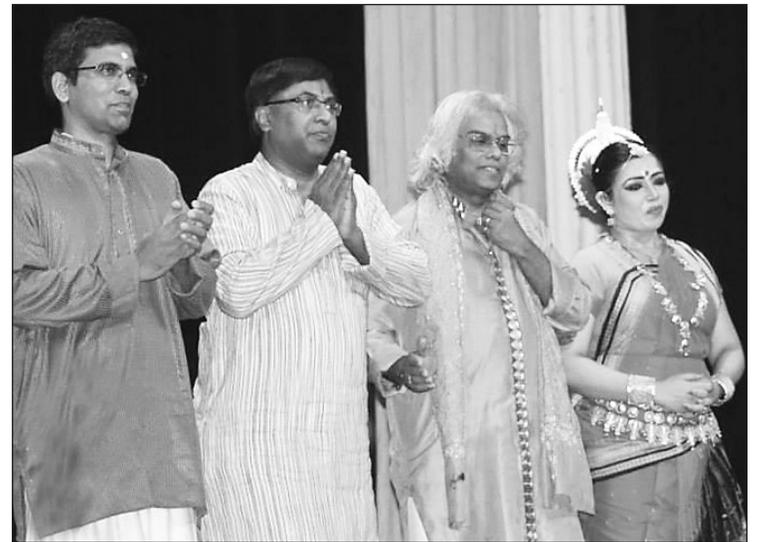
By a Staff Reporter

CHICAGO, Illinois – The Sankara Eye Foundation got a shot in the arm for its Vision 2020 project

which aims to build at least 20 eye hospitals across India by the year 2020. Their recent charity concert in Chicago inspired an anonymous donor to pledge \$2

million in support of a hospital in West Bengal.

The event was all the more significant because this was not a pop concert but a first of its kind



(L-r): Ramesh Srinivasan (mridangam), Chitravina Ravikiran, Pandit Tarun Bhattacharya and Guru Sanchita Bhattacharya.

Trigulbandhi, a coming together of three distinct classical styles of India – Carnatic, Hindustani and Odissi dance.

The featured artists were Sangeet Samrat Chitravina N. Ravikiran, hailed in world music circles as "the Mozart of Indian music"; highly-acclaimed santoor maestro Pt Tarun Bhattacharya; and innovative Odissi exponent Guru Sanchita Bhattacharya, on a nationwide tour for SEF covering about 15 cities including Los Angeles, Dallas, New York and Detroit.

One of the prime movers for this was Ramesh Srinivasan, a noted mridangam performer and guru in California.

The organization, the world's biggest charity of its kind with over one million free eye surgeries so far, already has hospitals in several cities including Co-

imbatore, Krishnankoil in Tamil Nadu, Bangalore and Shimoga in Karnataka, Guntur in AP, Anand in Gujarat, Ludhiana in Punjab and Rishikesh in Uttarakand, according to a press release.

A ninth hospital in Kanpur is opening this June.

Murali Krishnamurthy, founder and executive chairman of SEF-USA, was overjoyed at the response in Chicago. "This is a tribute to all the volunteers and well-wishers of SEF's great cause. A special thanks to the great artists who have supported our fundraisers by not only performing the concerts at highly subsidized fees but also by promoting it in every city in order that Sankara gets high revenues. With 8 hospitals and over 150,000 free eye surgeries per year, we are now the largest charitable eye care provider in the world," he said.

What is the Hype about STEM Education? Well, a Child Could Develop a Passion for Engineering in Kindergarten

Best in Class Education Center is on board with STEM curricula from pre-K to adult education

If you Google "STEM education," you'll find countless media outlets covering the topic and articulating that the United States is falling behind internationally, ranking 25th in mathematics and 17th in science among industrialized nations. What is STEM? It stands for science-technology-engineering-mathematics, and generally supports broadening the study of engineering through these subjects as early as elementary school.

The United States CoSTEM (The committee on STEM Education) in conjunction with the Dept. of Education has outlined several goals intended to be achieved over the next several years, which will improve the United States' ranking internationally, and prepare our students for success in technology and engineering fields. The top three initiatives are:

- Increase the U.S. tech/engineering talent pool by improving K-12 science and mathematics curricula
- Strengthen the skills of educators through additional training in science, math, and technology
- Enlarge the pipeline of students prepared to graduate college with STEM degrees

Best in Class Education recognizes that with a higher demand than ever in STEM-related career fields, it behooves us to spark our students' interest in the field early on. We need to equip students with the tools they need to excel, particularly in the areas of mathematics, science, and technology.

As a part of its proprietary curriculum, Best in Class offers a mathematics enrichment program that pinpoints specific concepts a student has trouble with, and then aims to improve upon the student's problem-solving skills

for those particular concepts first. Once these concepts have been mastered, the student goes

on to learn how to utilize analytical strategies to apply basic principles to more complex material. The private tutoring program through Best in Class implements the same method of teaching. It guarantees students of all levels access to teachers who specialize in STEM subjects in a private setting..

The end-goal of a well-rounded education is to prepare our students for a successful career, right?

Currently, only about 16 percent of high school graduates are interested in pursuing a STEM degree. Educational services such as My College Options and STEM-connector predict that there will be a demand for an 8.65 million-strong STEM workforce by 2018. With a clear demand in the field, Best in Class Education is committed to teaching STEM in a manner that gets students excited about these subjects and provides them with the skills to surpass their peers.

For more information about Best in Class services for your student, or about current franchising opportunities, visit www.bestinclasseducation.com or call toll free at 1.888.683.8108.

Best in Class is targeting the addition of 20 additional units in 2014. With several locations already in California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, the west coast is a key target for further expansion. The current team behind Best in Class is looking for passionate and dedicated individuals to join this premier franchise family and ensure our youth will excel academically.

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