

Robin Raina Foundation premieres *Dilli* at NASDAQ

STAFF REPORTER

New York

Robin Raina, chairman and CEO of Ebix Inc. and founder of the Robin Raina Foundation, rang the Closing bell at the NASDAQ MarketSite in New York City's Times Square to mark the world premiere of its documentary film, "Dilli."

The Ebix group of companies trades on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the ticker symbol EBIX.

Produced by Black Ticket Films for the Robin Raina Foundation, the film presents the untold story of the underprivileged in Delhi. "Dilli" brings out a stark comparison of the rampant progress and development of the megalopolis vis-a-vis thousands who are left homeless while the whole city is modernized and revamped.

Directors Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas eloquently weave this untold story of mass exodus of thousands who were bulldozed from their homes and transferred to the makeshift facade in the slums of Bawana, on the outskirts of Delhi, without water, shelter or drainage while the city was being given a face-lift for the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Robin Raina Foundation is presently carrying out the largest private charity home building initiative in the Indian sub-continent, in terms of building 6000 homes, free of cost, for the underprivileged slum dwellers of Delhi. They have finished building 1157 homes and allocated these homes to the under-privileged



Robin Raina

slum families of Bawana. The project is estimated to cost more than \$15 million.

The Foundation is an Atlanta-based non-profit, non-religious and non-political charity organization that also support more than 4,000 children across the world, in terms of their education, food, shelter and medical needs. They also run multiple schools across India, an orphan home in Mumbai, medical ambulances in Delhi, and a hospital ward in Pakistan.

At the premiere, an emotional Raina termed poverty as the "single biggest religion in the world," talking to the audience after the screening, explaining why he decided to build homes for the migrant laborers who come to Delhi in hope of finding work, who toil without ever having a home of their own.

"For the first time these people have an address of their own, they have identity," said Raina, adding that it was important not to forget the poor of the world in the face of rampant development, that it was important

to give them a voice too.

The Foundation has had remarkable success since its inception in 2003, with more than 30 children whom they supported having passed professional graduation courses like Engineering and Medicine.

More than 50 blind children have passed graduation studies and are now studying in the Masters program in eminent schools in India.

Sikh Coalition files lawsuit against CDCR

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The Sikh Coalition has filed a lawsuit against the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) on behalf of Sukhjinder Singh Basra, a Sikh detainee, who suffered repeated disciplinary sanctions for keeping his religiously-mandated beard uncut.

The lawsuit was filed in partnership with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Foundation of Southern California, the ACLU's Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief, and the law firm Alston & Bird LLP.

The ultimate aim of this litigation is to ensure that Sikh detainees -- and indeed all others who are required to maintain beards for religious reasons -- are able to do so without penalty, the Coalition said in a statement.

The idea for building homes came from the foundation's desire to educate children. While trying to provide education to the slum dwellers' children, they realized that continuous education for these children can only be ensured if their parents continued to live in the same area. In 2007, the foundation conceptualized a project to build 6000 concrete homes on legally owned plots of land, free of cost for the slum dwellers of Bawana.

This is the second Sikh Coalition lawsuit against the CDCR. In December 2009, the Coalition filed a lawsuit against California's prison system for failing to hire a Sikh correctional officer job applicant who refused to cut his beard.

That lawsuit remains open and is actively being litigated.

In addition to enlisting the help of the ACLU and Alston & Bird, the Sikh Coalition was able to persuade the U.S. Department of Justice to file a separate lawsuit in order to protect Basra's religious rights under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA).

This federal law extends basic religious freedoms to detainees and is based on the principle that religious freedom is a fundamental human right.