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India's Ambassador to the United States to Talk About Tension Between India and Pakistan, Terrorism

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DAYTON, Ohio — It's impossible these days not to pick up a newspaper or tune into CNN without hearing about India or Pakistan.

One of the newsmakers is coming to town. Lalit Mansingh, India's ambassador to the United States, will talk about "India, Pakistan, the United States and Global Terrorism" at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, in the Sears Recital Hall in the Jesse Philips Humanities Center at the University of Dayton. It's free and open to the public.

Mansingh's talk is co-sponsored by the India Foundation, the Dayton Council on World Affairs and the University of Dayton's Center for International Programs. He will be accompanied by Shashi Tripathi, the counsel general of India.

The ambassador will preside over the India Foundation's 15th anniversary celebration at a champagne reception and dinner at 6 p.m. on March 28 at the Marriott Hotel, 1414 S. Patterson Blvd. The cost is $50. Call (937) 433-5235 or 433-4879 for reservations and information.

"As part of the celebration, the India Foundation will pay tribute to diversity in our community by what the foundation calls 'Celebration of Diversity: Celebrating India by Celebrating Diversity,'" said Harish Trivedi, chairman of the India Foundation.

"Representatives of various ethnic and nationality organizations are invited to participate in this first-ever special event."

Mansingh, originally scheduled to visit Dayton in October, postponed that trip in
the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

India and Pakistan, two nuclear powers, braced for war in December as both countries deployed troops along the border following an attack on India's Parliament. Tensions remain high between the two countries, which have fought three wars since partition. Much of the strife focuses on Kashmir, a disputed Himalayan region where more than 30,000 people have died during the past decade alone.

In more recent news, religious riots have left hundreds of people dead in the western Gujarat state in India.

"This is a significant opportunity for Daytonians to better understand a complex part of the world from a person who represents the government and people of India to the United States and works closely with the Bush administration," said Thomas Lasley, president of the Dayton Council on World Affairs and dean of UD's School of Education and Allied Professions.

For more information about Mansingh's visit, contact Harish Trivedi at (937) 433-4879 or indiafound@earthlink.net.

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