



<b>Publication:</b> Web India 123	<b>Edition:</b> Online
<b>Date:</b> Tuesday, Apr 16 2013	<b>Link :</b> <a href="http://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20130416/2189724.html">http://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20130416/2189724.html</a>

### **US Ambassador wants Indo-US relationship to grow stronger**

U S Ambassador Nancy Powell has said the Bilateral relations between India and US were stronger today than before in various areas of trade, culture, education. science and Technology. She was Speaking in an event jointly organized by Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, West India Council, Indo-American Society and Namaste America here last evening.

Addressing the gathering on 'Indo-US Relations', Powell stressed on the three areas where there is greater cooperation and relationship between the two largest democracies. This includes commerce & business, strengthening India's role in the Asian region and child survival, and security and countering terrorism both in the region as well as globally.

She said 'There is a deeper and broader relationship in many new areas and we are looking to expand that. Finding ways to broaden the role of India in the region, working and growing defense trade by eliminating restrictions on technology transfer for India and education, where both the countries are working on a community college model that can work in India are some of the areas.' Citing a Price waterhouse Coppers study, Powell mentioned. 'The Indian economy is slated to be third largest by the year 2030 with a GDP of \$ 8 trillion. But for that to happen there are multiple growth challenges that India has to tackle. Infrastructure is one, 80 per cent of which is not yet ready for the country to be there.

The other concerns that US business faces here is the slow pace of approvals, which needs to be taken care of.



<b>Publication:</b> United News of India (UNI)	<b>Edition:</b> Online
<b>Date:</b> Tuesday, Apr 16 2013	<b>Link :</b> <a href="http://www.uniindia.com/eng/displaystory.php?sid=146&amp;ngsystemtask=3325weare24olym54hrt56u6755uwere21stories16">http://www.uniindia.com/eng/displaystory.php?sid=146&amp;ngsystemtask=3325weare24olym54hrt56u6755uwere21stories16</a>

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<b>Publication:</b> Gulf News	<b>Edition:</b> Online
<b>Date:</b> Tuesday, Apr 16 2013	<b>Link :</b> <a href="http://gulfnews.com/news/world/india/us-india-urged-to-bolster-cooperation-1.1171237">http://gulfnews.com/news/world/india/us-india-urged-to-bolster-cooperation-1.1171237</a>

### **US, India urged to bolster cooperation**

Ambassador stresses specific focus on infrastructure, defense, energy and child care

Mumbai: US Ambassador Nancy J. Powell has stressed the need for enhanced cooperation between the two countries with specific focus on infrastructure, defence, energy and child care among other sectors. Since both countries have been targeted by terror attacks and security is an area of concern, the defence trade needs to expand, Powell said at an Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) function here on Monday night.

“Both of us have incredibly complex acquisitions and sales systems. So we’ve been working on that. We’re going to be looking at ways, whether there are things that we could co-produce, and expand that band of our relationship as well,” she said.

Another area was recognizing India’s growing role in the world and the region and see how the US could help it further enhance it so both could work together on a variety of global problems and issues, she said.

Powell noted that according to a Price Waterhouse Coopers study, the Indian economy will more than quadruple by 2030, making it the third largest in the world and presenting enormous opportunities for US businesses and cooperation.

But, the envoy said there are multiple quarters of slowing GDP growth and stalling of the investment cycles and India must not be complacent about some of these problems, “but rather take them on.” Though weak global economic conditions impacted India and the US both, many problems are within India’s power to resolve, she said.

“The slow pace of approvals when new businesses want to start, combined with government decisions and policies that exacerbate uncertainties in treatment, and mixed messages for investors are a problem for our American companies,” she said.

“Also we look at the local manufacturing policies that disrupt global supply networks. How do we deal with those in a world that is becoming more and more global? Uneven IPR enforcement efforts also hurt innovation and affect not only the foreign pharmaceutical businesses but also India’s own economic growth prospects,” Powell contended.

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However, she expressed satisfaction that recent economic reforms will help address some of these issues. On infrastructure, Powell said according to current estimates, nearly 80 per cent of infrastructure required to sustain and support India for the 2030 goal has yet to be built or designed and its financing arranged. US companies could help in this area, she added.

Touching upon health care, Powell said it was imperative to ensure that every single child survived till the age of five.

“But those first five years are very, very difficult in many, many places in the world, including some parts of India. It turns out in India one of the big problems is the first five days of life,” Powell said, urging companies and NGOs to work on issues like safe water and safe delivery of babies.

On the energy sector, she said the US-India Partnership to Advance Clean Energy, initiated in 2009, has mobilized more than \$1.7 billion (Dh6.2 billion) for clean projects in India, including installing 40 per cent of its first 1,000 MW of solar capacity.



<b>Publication:</b> The Hindu Business Line	<b>Edition:</b> Online
<b>Date:</b> Monday, Apr 15 2013	<b>Link :</b> <a href="http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/slow-decisionmaking-keeping-off-investors-nancy-powell/article4620634.ece">http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/slow-decisionmaking-keeping-off-investors-nancy-powell/article4620634.ece</a>

### **Slow decision-making keeping off investors: Nancy Powell**

Mumbai, Apr 15:

A “slow pace” of approval process in India is inhibiting foreign investments, the US Ambassador to India, Nancy Powell today said.

“Slow pace of approval process sends mixed messages to American companies planning to invest here,” Powell told a gathering of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce here this evening. Noting that Indian economy has grown at least 10 times since the 1991 liberalisation, Powell said “this could not have been possible without the help of multi-nationals and the business model adopted by the government”.

“But there is even brighter future, provided the government improves its decision-making process, especially those of foreign investment proposals,” she added.

Powell also complimented the recent government decision to allow increased FDI in various sectors like aviation and retail, saying such measures are “encouraging,” and added that more such initiatives in defence collaboration, energy and financial sector are needed.

“If implemented, such measures can enhance the country’s capabilities in these critical sectors,” she said. “India needs and deserves the best military services in the sub-continent for which the US is ready and prepared to help. Your security challenges are genuine and the US can help enhance your internal security,” Powell said.



<b>Publication:</b> The Economic Times	<b>Edition:</b> Online
<b>Date:</b> Monday, Apr 15 2013	<b>Link :</b> <a href="http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-04-15/news/38556053_1_critical-sectors-foreign-investment-proposals-business-model">http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-04-15/news/38556053_1_critical-sectors-foreign-investment-proposals-business-model</a>

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<b>Publication:</b> Zee News	<b>Edition:</b> Online
<b>Date:</b> Monday, Apr 15 2013	<b>Link :</b> <a href="http://zeenews.india.com/business/news/finance/slow-decision-making-keeping-off-investors-us-envoy_74243.html">http://zeenews.india.com/business/news/finance/slow-decision-making-keeping-off-investors-us-envoy_74243.html</a>

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<b>Publication:</b> The Times of India	<b>Edition:</b> Online
<b>Date:</b> Monday, Apr 15 2013	<b>Link :</b> <a href="http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-04-15/india/38555426_1_critical-sectors-foreign-investment-proposals-business-model">http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-04-15/india/38555426_1_critical-sectors-foreign-investment-proposals-business-model</a>

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# NAMASTE AMERICA

Indo American Association for Art & Culture



<b>Publication:</b> The Times of India	<b>Edition:</b> City- Metro Digest
<b>Date:</b> Monday, Apr 15 2013	<b>Page:</b> 4

# NAMASTE AMERICA

Indo American Association for Art & Culture



<b>Publication:</b> The Sakaal Times	<b>Edition:</b> Online
<b>Date:</b> Monday, Apr 17 2013	<b>Page:</b> 6

## 'US-India working closely to counter terror'

**Mumbai:** United States and India are working closely in the areas of counter-terrorism, both globally and locally, US Ambassador to India Nancy J Powell said.

"One of the areas of cooperation is the security area. Both of our countries have been the targets of terrorism. We know the pain that has been caused by terrorism. We have been working

### DEFENCE COOP

■ "It turns out both of us have complex acquisitions and sales systems. We're going to be looking at ways, whether there are things that we could co-produce, and expand that band of our relationship as well," Powell said.

together on efforts to look at the ways that we can counter those terrorists globally and locally," Powell said on Monday evening at the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, Mumbai.

On cooperation in defence sector, she said, "We are also looking at our defence relationship under this big broad band of activities. I'm very pleased to

report that what was a very limited activity when I was here in 1993 to 1995 is now a very robust area of discussion." She said that when Secretary of Defense Panetta was here last summer he asked his Deputy to do whatever United States could do to eliminate some of the restrictions that they had on trade with India in the defence sector. ■