**‘Indo-US partnership to play key role in South Asia’**

VISAKHAPATNAM: The evolving partnership between the United States of America and India will play a key role in moulding the future of South Asia, said Stephen Tankel, an anti-terrorism expert and faculty member of the American University's School of International Service.   
  
Speaking at the Gitam School of International Business here on Monday, Tankel, who has conducted various field research programmes in West Asia to map the rise of terrorism, said India is evolving into a major economic powerhouse with the thrust being provided by the Prime Minister's 'Make in India' initiative, which has received a massive response from USA.   
  
He said the growing partnership between the two giant democracies will help provide stability and bring economic prosperity in the South Asian region. Regarding the bonhomie between PM Narendra Modi and US President Barack Obama, Tankel said it will only help cement ties between the two countries. Elaborating on security concerns and heightened terrorist threat, he said India and US must maintain a two-way communication channel, share intelligence information and fight terrorism in a well-coordinated manner. Regarding the US-Pakistan relationship, he said it will have no negative bearings on the relationship between India and US.   
  
Answering queries on the manner in which India and US should tackle terrorism, Tankel said India must strengthen it's intelligence network, take prompt counter-terrorism steps and go straight to the root cause and identify potential threat very early.