

Concept Note for the Symposium

On

WAR ON TERROR IN THE POST-OSAMA PHASE

February 10, 2012

Venue: IDSA, New Delhi

With the killing of Osama Bin Laden by the US Navy Seals on May 2, 2011 in Pakistani Garrison city of Abbottabad, the war on Terror has entered into a new phase. Contrary to the imagination, instead of decreasing, incidents of Jihadi terrorism are on the rise indicating spread of terror network. Numerous lesser known outfits have gained in strength and are zealously engaged in furthering the terror agenda. While the US is struggling to make Afghanistan out of bounds for al-Qaeda and its associates, Pakistan sees her national interest being served by these very terror outfits and thus willingly impedes the US efforts. It is about time to realise that selective approach to deal with the issue of terrorism is bound to fail as groups with terror agenda are complementing each other much better than states launching a campaign against them. The role of states like Pakistan that are on the verge of collapse under the pressure of domestic contradictions is proving to be the main stumbling block in winning the war on terror. Under these circumstances, 'war on terror' cannot be treated as a specific war against al-Qaeda and its associates like the Taliban. The understanding of the issue of terror needs to be broadened to discover the linkages that exist among all the terror outfits with various agenda. The first step towards victory against terror can be taken by making the divide between States and non-state actors with terror agenda clear. States that see these terror outfits as strategic assets must be forced to take side of this divide and be treated appropriately. Unless the international community takes a united and tough stand against terrorism in all its aspects, the 'War on Terror' will, sooner than later, turn into a full-scale war between State and Non-state actors. To discuss the issue of terrorism and the fight against terrorism in the post Osama Situation a one day symposium is proposed to be organised along with the seminar involving scholars watching the issue of terrorism in various parts of Asia.