

Editorial

PRAYER FOR A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

We have entered New Year in the backdrop of gloom of horror and savagery generated by ongoing conflicts in different parts of the world. The pledges of world community to pursue the objective of establishing a peaceful world order free of conflicts appear hollow in view of rising violence and emergence of new conflict zones. It is an irony that many a world organization professing to stimulate and even goad the states to devote their energies and resources in strengthening peaceful societies seem to be failing in realizing their dream. It is high time to address the issue with a new zeal to safeguard the humanity. A new initiative is needed to underscore the factors which hinder the efforts to sustain peaceful societies and deal with them with great determination.

A quick look at the ongoing conflicts provide some clues to comprehend the conundrum. These clues may be enumerated as, firstly; achieving strategic objectives on the part of states, secondly; attempts to project themselves as global power, and thirdly, pursuing a well articulated ideological philosophy.

Many an identifiable state around the globe, in pursuance of their strategic objectives, have structured terror machines and have perfected mechanisms to generate terror and fear and export the *product* beyond their borders. It is another matter that some times this vicious activity rebounds and targets their own societies. The situation becomes complex, which is supported by empirical evidence, when different states join hands as alliance partners and employ these tactics of terror and fear to achieve their very targets.

Historical developments support the contention that raising and nourishing terror machines have pushed the global order towards anarchy. The past experience of driving out the then Soviet Union from Afghanistan by raising so called Islamist force designated as *Taliban* provides an illustration to the point. The wherewithal to raise this force which was funded by a large number of states pursuing

anti Soviet foreign policy aside, the ideological apparatus which was designed and prepared for this force created a monster which spread its deadly wings after the withdrawal of Soviets from Afghanistan. This ruthless monster, in its varied formations and camouflaged demeanor, has been indulging in their avocation of devastation of otherwise peaceful states and societies after the completion of *mission Afghanistan*.

The emergence of independent sovereign states post decolonization was a milestone in the emergence of a new world order. A new international community of free and sovereign states had signaled the advent of an order based on cooperation and welfare of people across the globe. This noble spirit was shaping new geo politics of the world. However, this development was overtaken by ambitions of emerging as hegemons on the global stage on the part of some states. It resulted in creating a friction and started foisting one state against the other. This development weakened the role of United Nations which was perceived as a catalyst in the process of change and building a peaceful world order. This is not to deny the great contribution of United Nations in instituting *détente* and minimizing the chances of major world conflicts. Be that as it is, the fracas of low level conflicts resulting in merciless massacres, forced migrations and devastation of towns and cities is continuing with impunity. In this circus of death and devastation, a new ideology wearing the cloaks of religion and in some cases nationalism, is becoming a rallying point for gullible young minds. However, a discerning eye may see through the motives and intentions of promoters of this very stratagem.

We are entering New Year not on a happy note. The ceremonial Happy New Year messages can not eliminate the intensity of horrendous events taking place around us. We have to join hands and devise a methodology to obliterate the menace from the soil of the earth. The primary task in this regard is to identify the promoters of this phenomenon and isolate and confront them.

That would be an appropriate message of New Year.

Riyaz Punjabi