

Reflecting on peaceful virtues in Indian philosophy

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Nations today are enslaved by global complexities. Ongoing trade wars, currency wars, hot wars, cold wars as well as protective and political motives in the dis-

guise of nationalism and populism, have divided nations into blocs and regions seeking conciliation from the United Nations rather than working for the unity of nations.

Today is a day to review and reflect on the power of India's holistic philosophy that has bestowed courage, confidence and unshakeable faith among the Indian masses to bravely face the psychological damage caused by colonization — the undermining of its very own social beliefs, rights, and the fact that many of today's racial, religious and ethnic tensions are the consequences of an oppressed society.

India's struggle for freedom and independence is an inspiration and exemplary role model for all. Mahatma Gandhi, who dedicated his life to India's independence, chose humanity's two most powerful virtues as his instruments — the indomitable power

of truth and the ever-expansive power of compassion deeply embedded in the domain of nonviolence.

It was truth and nonviolence in thoughts, words and deeds that shaped Gandhi's principles and philosophy to successfully liberate India without using any destructive weapons. The indomitable power of truth is enshrined in India's national emblem as "Truth alone triumphs."

World leaders and luminaries have embraced Gandhi's legacy for building world peace over seven decades. This year is the 150th anniversary of Gandhi's birth. With the cooperation of UNESCO and over 180 countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched massive global

programs to salute Gandhian doctrines and firmly secure peace and prosperity for the next 150 years by inculcating virtues of truth and nonviolence in the world's youth.

The India-Japan partnership is filled with promise and potential that will widely contribute to enduring peace and prosperity in Asia and beyond. The Indian Commerce and Industry Association (ICIJ), established in 1921 as an apex body, has served India's economic agenda for 98 years.

While felicitating India's independence and freedom, on behalf of all ICIJ members, I convey our deepest appreciation to all who have contributed to India's cause. I am grateful to The Japan Times and its readers.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.