

FROM INDIA WITH LOVE

JAPAN

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# Japan

*What does connection mean today? Why Japan:*

1. **A quiet crisis**

   Nearly 1.5 million people aged 15–64 live as hikikomori (government survey, 2023). In 2025, 532 schoolchildren took their own lives, a record high.

2. **A society under pressure**

   An ageing, shrinking population, long working hours, and a record four million foreign residents, testing how Japan welcomes newcomers.

3. **A living India connection**

   Buddhism travelled from India to Japan. The friendship of Tagore and Okakura, and a deep partnership today, keep the bond alive.

## WHAT THIS CHAPTER DELIVERS

- Feature documentary
- Character shorts
- Learning module
- Japan screening tour

**Objective:** *Demonstrate a repeatable model for storytelling, education and trust-building across countries.*

Poster artwork illustrative

FIWL JAPAN · THE TRAVELLERS

# Six strangers. One journey. Two weeks.

*Six Japanese whose paths might otherwise never cross.*

**ILLUSTRATIVE CHARACTERS · CASTING NOT YET COMPLETED**



### Educator

Watches her students withdraw into silence. Wants to help them speak again.



### Corporate executive

Gave his life to the company and lost touch with his family. Searching for what really matters.



### Parent

Her son has not left his room in three years. Hopes to bring him back into the world.



### Young media creator

A large online following, but few real friends. Searching for connection beyond the screen.



### Elder

Has lived alone since her husband died. Wonders who would notice if she were gone.



### Athlete

Admired by fans, and lonely once the cheering stops. Wants to show that strength can be gentle.

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**Guided through India by Mandar Apte**, producer and director of From India With Love, who also appears in the film as the travellers' guide.

*Faces are AI-generated, not real participants; uniforms and kit are illustrative. Travellers are selected by the creative team; partners and sponsors may nominate candidates.*

FIWL JAPAN · THE JOURNEY

# Two weeks experiencing India's culture and wisdom traditions.

*An illustrative route. The final itinerary will be designed for the deepest healing and transformation.*




*Map for illustration; route indicative.*

1 **Mumbai** Days 1–2

The intensity and warmth of city life mirror the pressures of modern society.

2 **Maharashtra** Days 3–6

The devotion of Sant Tukaram and Sant Dnyaneshwar, Shivaji Maharaj's legacy, and non-violence as inner strength.

3 **Amritsar** Days 7–10

The Golden Temple and immersion in Sikh traditions of seva, equality and community care.

4 **Bihar** Days 11–14

The Buddha Circuit (Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, Nalanda), with silence, contemplation and a ritual immersion in the Ganges at Patna.

## BEFORE THE JOURNEY

Document participants' back stories, build trust within the group, and set intentions for the journey ahead.

## DURING · 2 WEEKS

Through yoga, meditation, breathwork and dialogue, participants experience the magic of India, then design service projects to carry their learning home.

## AFTER THE JOURNEY

Follow participants as they translate their experience into acts of compassion, service and trust-building in their chosen spaces.

FIWL JAPAN · THE JOURNEY

# An inner journey and an outer one.

*In India, strangers discover connection through service, shared experiences and looking within.*











*Stills from From India With Love (USA), filmed in India in 2016.*

FIWL JAPAN • SAFEGUARDS

# Trust built into the model.

*People sharing deeply personal experiences deserve care, consent and dignity at every step.*

### 1 Trauma-informed care

A trauma-informed care specialist travels with the group, with support before, during and after the journey.

### 2 Consent and dignity

Informed consent at every stage of filming, and the right to withdraw from further filming.

### 3 Editorial independence

The creative team (Mandar Apte as producer and director, with Japan and India co-directors) selects every traveller. Partners and sponsors never influence content.

### 4 Honest imagery

AI-generated images are always labelled. No real person is shown as a participant without consent.

### 5 Follow-through

A participant-engagement coordinator supports every traveller through the eight weeks of service at home.

### 6 Governance

Gifts will be received through charitable partners, with separate project accounting and regular financial reporting.

FIWL JAPAN · THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE FILM

# The vision is in place. Your support will help build the team.

## PRODUCER & DIRECTOR



### Mandar Apte

- 18 years at Shell, managing GameChanger social innovation and impact investments
- Founder, Cities4Peace (2018–present)
- Director, From India With Love (USA, 2017)
- Fellow, Royal Society of Arts (2023–present)
- Adjunct Senior Industry Fellow, RMIT University (2024–present)
- Winner, Ashoka League of Intrapreneurs Award (2013)



*"I've been enormously impressed by the work [Mandar has] done bringing people from different sectors of society together."*

Sir Mark Moody-Stuart · Former Chairman, Shell and Anglo American

## THE TEAM

Once funded, we will hire co-directors and production houses in both countries.

*Together, they will deliver an award-calibre film.*

### JAPAN

**Co-director · Production house**

Leads casting interviews and back stories, and shapes the story for Japanese audiences and the Japan tour.

### INDIA

**Co-director · Production house**

Designs the transformational experiences, manages local permissions and in-country production, and brings cultural depth to the journey.

# If the whole world is a home,
# *India is its prayer room.*

The next journey begins with you.

DONATE | PARTNER | BECOME A PATRON




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