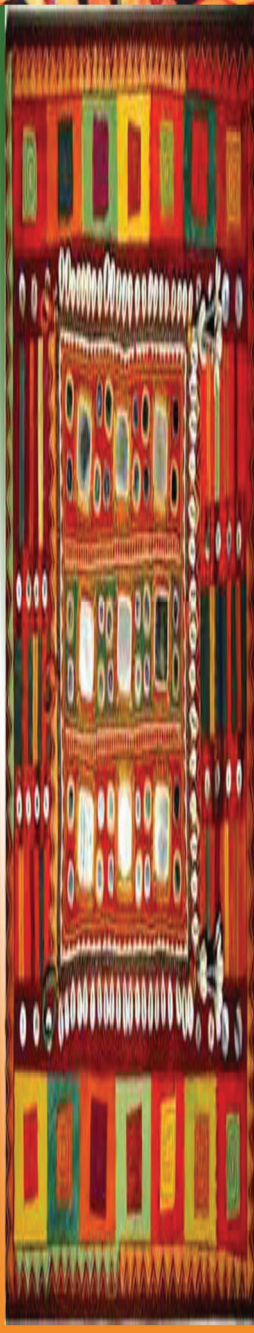


passage to india

Project by

T-HOP



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HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

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Supported by and partnership with

THE MARY BASSETT LOWER SCHOOL

THE HILLS LOWER SCHOOL BEDFORD

MOGGERHANGER LOWER SCHOOL

Moggerhanger Park

Leighton House Museum

HIGH SCHOOL Denbigh A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

Estcht West Productions

Rhythms Entertainment

Note from the Chairperson







PASSAGE TO INDIA

This project gave a great insight to the history, traditions and culture of Indian Heritage. The opportunities were immense for many people, especially those that cannot get access work of this kind.

Passage to India opened doors to many participants and the wider audience, it demonstrated how strong the traditions and culture was imbedded within Indian heritage, and how it is still practised today.

The project promoted a sound understanding of Indian culture, but more importantly, it demonstrated the shared benefits between India and Britain, which included, sport, language, food, music and dance.

We thank the Heritage Lottery Fund for supporting this project and making this experience possible for all involved.

We also thank all the schools and their staff, the children, the parents, the venue, our partners and all the artistes for their support and contribution in making this project as success.

We hope to have the same opportunity to work with you all again.

Many thanks again for all the support.

Yours sincerely,

A M Ballantyne

Alice Ballantyne – Chairperson T-HOP





Note from the Artistic Director



This project was funded by the **Heritage Lottery Fund,** and its intent was to take the participants and the wider audience on a historically traditional cultural journey of India's heritage and the impact of all the influences and settlements throughout from its first civilisation to date.

The project demonstrated how much Britain shares with India and its melting pot of cultures, from language to sport, cuisine to fashion, music and dance.

This booklet has been produced as a reflection of the journey that all the participants went on through the project. It gave learning, participation and access to the wider audience in the experience of India's history, culture, traditions that makes up its glorious and colourful heritage.

I would like to thank Heritage Lottery Fund for making this project possible, and to the participants, artistes, volunteers, friends, families, local communities, Moggerhanger Park and local authorities, a big thank you for making this project a success.



Thank you all for your fantastic support.

Yours sincerely,

Geeta Pendaer – Artistic Director



Acknowledgements















We would like to say a BIG thank you to all the teachers, leaders, parents and especially the children and young people of:

Moggerhanger Lower School
Sandy Upper School – Sandy
Maple Tree Lower School
Hills Lower School – Bedford
Ampthill Brownies – Ampthill
Sacred Heart Catholic School
Denbigh High School – Luton
Mary Bassett Lower School
Bedford Young Offenders Service

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Moggerhanger Park
Bedford Race and Equality Council
Luton Borough Council – Luton Arts
Bedford Council
Luton Community Groups

Finally a big thank you, to 'All' the wonderful inspiring artistes on the project, for all the help and support to make this project happen.

Amber Khokar -	**Islamic Art**
Bobby Riat -	Bhangra Music/Dhol
Bobby Kumar -	**Bollywood Dance**
Coco P -	Storytelling/Narrator
Drew -	**The Polo Man**
Geeta Pendaer -	Bhangra, Bollywood, Classical, Geometric Dance, Lectures, Project Management, Production, Direction and Narration
Kali -	**Classical Dance**
Lisa Schulberg -	History of Sport and Language/Drama
Mamta Sharma -	**Classical Music/Sitar**
Rivae Pendaer -	Narrator
Shiva Beds Youth -	**Gatka (Indian Martial Art)**
Sukhdev Bhambra -	Indian Food, Indian Art and Costume-making
SW Storm -	**Songwriting**
Terry N Fraser -	Music Production, Videography and Editting
Denille Fraser -	**Videography**
Gary Winfield -	Photography
JR Graphix -	**Print and Press**

We are grateful for the grant support from HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND that made this and many other projects possible. This support enables us all to benefit greatly from each other, learning and participating in 'our' cultural heritage that makes up 'UK's Heritage'.



Acknowledgements











A tapestry is being stitched
story by story,
step by step,
thread by thread
pictures of life come alive
with threads of knowledge,
of understanding,
of faith,
and of hope,
the story unfolding
in the fabric,
the embroidered
tapestry of life

By Geeta Pendaer

Fly with the wings of the thought
feel with the wisdom of yesterday
bury the sorrow, make place for the new
rejoice in the future much knowledge is due
just make the journey
the journey
the journey
from the past,
the present
and the future in view

By Geeta Pendaer

Passage to India











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Passage to India

Hurry Hurry Curry

Hurry hurry curry
I love my curry
Hurry hurry curry
It's so hot and spicy ***(CHORUS)***

It's so nice and yummy
In India it's so sunny
It's so nice and yummy
We really love curry

(CHORUS)

Yummy hot and spicy
Hurry hurry curry
It goes nice well with ricey
Yeah, it's so nicey

(CHORUS) X 2

Curry's so nice
With sugar and spice
Especially with rice
And definitely no mice

Chicken chicken curry
I think it's funny
Curry in my tummy
I feel so happy

(CHORUS)

Written by Moggerhanger Lower School – Lead by SW Storm
Music Production by Terry Nelson Fraser









History of India
Indus Valley Civilisation





The History - *5000 years ago there was an Indus Valley civilisation, with evidence of a society that was Advanced, Organised and Urban.*

Indus Valley Civilisation

Around five thousand years ago, an important civilization developed on the Indus River Floodplain. From about 2600 B.C. to 1700 B.C. a **vast** number of **settlements** were built on the banks of the Indus River and surrounding areas. These settlements cover a remarkable region, almost 1.25 million kilometres of land which is today part of Afghanistan, Pakistan and north-western India. The cities located within the Indus Valley were **Harappa**, and a neighbouring city 350 miles away, **Mohenjo-Daro**.

The cities of the Indus Valley Civilisation were **well-organised** and solidly built out of brick and stone. The drainage systems, wells and water storage systems were the most **sophisticated** in the ancient world. They also developed systems of **weights** and **trade**. They made **jewellery** and **game pieces** and **toys** for their children.

People of the Indus Valley Civilization were specifically marked for their strong **social** and **cultural** roles which they played with ease. The ancient culture of India is noted for its social and **organisational** systems. Some of them are as follows:

- Architecture
- Place of women in society
- Customs and traditions
- Caste system
- Asrama system



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History of India
Indus Valley Civilisation

Architecture - The Harappa Civilization and the Mohenjo-Daro Civilization are witness to the architectural glory of ancient India. Both the cities display signs wonderfully designed streets, market palces and houses. The designs of the buildings and roads speak volume about the architectural craftsmanship of the people of that period.

Place of women in society - During the Indus Valley civilization, women were treated weaker than their male counterparts. According to the ancient texts, women lacked both physical and spiritual strength. With their charm and seduction, they used to prevent men from indulging in spiritual affairs.

Customs and Traditions - One of the important features of the culture of ancient India is that the period was characterized by religious sexual images. During the Indus Valley Civilization, 2 coinciding iconographic systems ware introduced. These were images of animals and man-animal combination.

Caste System - Unlike modern India, there was social mobility among the people of ancient India. At that time, it was possible for people to move from one verna or upper caste to another after some difficulty.

Asrama System - The asrama system of Hinduism was in full practice as part of the ancient culture of India. According to the system, an individual begins his life as a student. Then, he becomes a householder. In the later stage, he forsakes his home to become a hermit. Ultimately, he renounces all his worldly pleasures to be an ascetic.

Jewellery - The Indus Valley people are well-known for their bead-making skills. Beads of many different shapes and sizes have been found at all the major Harappan sites.



History of India
The Aryans









The arrival of the Aryans

The Aryans are said to have entered India through the fabled **Khyber pass**, around 1500 BC. They intermingled with the local populace, and assimilated themselves into the social framework. They adopted the settled agricultural lifestyle of their predecessors, and established small agrarian communities across the state of Punjab.

Some academic theories suggest that the ancestors of "some" Indians, Persians, Germans, Greeks, Romans, and the Celts were Aryans, who **worshipped** different **gods** and **goddesses**, used fire in their rituals and spoke many languages, which have evolved into the present day Indo European languages. The Indo Iranian group of Aryans settled in Iran and parts of north western India. Although they seemed to have shared a common **ancestry**, they parted their ways in matters of **language** and **religion**.

The Aryans are believed to have brought with them the **horse**, developed the **Sanskrit** language and made significant inroads in to the **religion** of the times. All three factors were to play a fundamental role in the shaping of **Indian culture**. Cavalry warfare facilitated the rapid spread of Aryan culture across North India, and allowed the emergence of large empires.

The Aryans organised among themselves in **three groups**. The first group was of the warriors and they were called **Rajayana**, later they changed their name **Rajayana** to **Kshatria**. The second group was of the priests and they were called **Brahmans**. The third group was of the farmers and craftsmen and they were called **Vaisia**.