

FOLK MUSIC, DIGITAL SPACES AND CULTURAL COMMONS IN INDIA

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT

SUPPORTED BY LAFONDACHAO FOUNDATION

The conceptualization of the 'Folk music, digital spaces and cultural commons in India' project, as a collaborative research with folk artists, is a way to make sense of this rapidly changing rubric of cultural production, digitization models, legal mechanisms, and decision making power of folk artists. Folk musicians and artists from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Assam and Karnataka will be participating in the 12-month research project to research, document, analyse and share:

1. An inventory of knowledge and practices of folk art traditions, the means of strengthening artists' livelihoods, the place of the dominant digitisation model in these means, and artists' knowledge of these means (and of their rights).

2. A focus on the practices and legal mechanisms around dominant model of recording, digitisation of works and access to distribution platforms, and an analysis of the inequalities that persist (among folk artists and between different categories of artists) in accessing these platforms.

3. An investigation of the alternative legal and livelihood practices (which may include digitisation) that exist today, and which are desired by (some) artists because they give a larger place to the commons.

The project is supported by LaFondaChao Foundation, which aims to support actions of humanitarian, charitable or cultural nature in developing countries.