



CIRCs Mungaska: Digitizing Cultural Heritage in Rajasthan

Rajasthan is a hub of folk art, theatre, music, dance and craft. The state is famous for its dynamic diversity, cultures, traditions and customs. Rajasthani nobles were patrons of art and encouraged their tradition. Rajasthan is home to many tribal communities, which have showcased excellence in various cultural activities worldwide.

On February 23, 2014 Digital Empowerment Foundation established a Community Information Resource Centre (CIRC) in Mungaska. Bhapang artist community dominates the region. Bhapang is a single stringed percussion instrument also known as 'talking drum'. The artist communities in Mungaska have been performing this art from ancient times and have become an eternal part of Rajasthani culture.

In this modern era, native Rajasthani cultural traditions have been neglected. There is a need for digitization of old and dying folk culture of the region. Folk art can benefit from the positive changes that the digital era has ushered in.

DEF's CIRC in Mungaska intends to preserve cultural heritage of the place. It also aims at establishing artistic and cultural importance of the area so that the future generation can benefit themselves through the effective digital mechanism. The role of ICT is immense in preserving our traditions. The centre is well equipped with ICT tools to provide digital services like printing, scanning and educational film screening. This centre will also look at giving the villagers a better insight into various problems and address local issues like unemployment and education.