

In one of the world's highest human habitations, where temperatures plunge to  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  and winters once cut the region off from the outside world for nearly six months, the people of Spiti continue to live and thrive. Rooted in a delicate balance of agriculture and animal keeping, they are known as agro-pastoralists - custodians of a way of life shaped by resilience, adaptation, and deep ecological understanding. Today, Spiti is increasingly known as a year-round tourist destination, aided by expanding connectivity and a changing climate. Yet beyond this emerging image lies a more complex and intimate story of people, livelihoods, and landscapes in transition.

**Gyur Se (changing)** offers a rare glimpse into these lived realities. It traces how social and economic transformations, along with increased connectivity, are reshaping pastoral life and the fragile trans-Himalayan landscape. At the same time, it reflects on continuity on enduring practices, relationships, and knowledge systems that have sustained life here for generations.

Pastoralism, one of the world's most significant rural livelihoods, stands at a critical juncture. Through over a decade of research and engagement by Dr. Rashmi Singh, this film brings forth the deep cultural and ecological knowledge of Spitian communities, their intimate human-animal relationships, and the shifting dynamics of demography and environment under the looming pressures of climate change.

*Released in celebration of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026), Gyur Se is both a reflection and an invitation. Come journey with us into the trans-Himalayan landscape. Come meet its people, its animals, and its stories.*

JULLEY!

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## GYUR SE

***Shifting Grounds of Agro-Pastoralism  
in the Trans-Himalaya***

**Documentary Release**

**Department of Liberal Arts  
LA001 | 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026 | 2:30pm**

**Bagaal (herd)** follows pastoral communities in the Khangchendzonga landscape of Sikkim, located in the Eastern Indian Himalaya, as they navigate a way of life under pressure from multiple directions. Through the daily rhythms of herding, the four o'clock wake-up, the counting of sheep, the looking for threats of the predator and the herd dog barking through the night, along with the herder fixing the fire flame and the radio station from Bhutan, the film traces the intimate knowledge that generations of herders have. Sikkim hosts a rich diversity of pastoral communities, including Gurung- the shepherds, Bhutia - yak herders, Chettri - the cattle herders and Magar and Rai - the owners of mixed flocks. The landscape is co-built by the pastoralists, their animals, and the wildlife. But conservation policies, a changing climate, and the aspirations of a younger generation are each pulling at the fabric of pastoral life in different ways and for different reasons.

Bagaal does not look for a single cause or a simple resolution. Instead, it shows what it means to keep something alive, and thrive a life and livelihood along with these tensions. It looks for its answer in the people who, knowing all of this, choose to continue Pastoralism in the High Himalayan region of Sikkim.

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## **BAGAAL**

*Kinship, Continuity, and the  
Shifting Trails of Pastoral Life*

*Documentary Release*

Department of Liberal Arts  
LA001 | 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026 | 2:00pm