

**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*

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