

# Pastoralism in India

## *Changes and Continuity*

A HYBRID INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

### Date

8 & 9 May 2026

### Venue

Indian Institute of  
Technology Hyderabad (IITH)

### Convenor

Dr. Rashmi Singh  
Department of  
Liberal Arts



### CONFERENCE THEMES

- Climate Change
- Mobility and Labour Dynamics
- Multispecies Entanglements

### SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



For more information, visit  
[www.indianpastoralism.org](http://www.indianpastoralism.org) or write to  
[thehimalayanshepherdess@gmail.com](mailto:thehimalayanshepherdess@gmail.com)

8.30 Registration

9.20 Welcome remarks by Dr. Rashmi Singh

*Lead, Indian Pastoralism Project; Co- Chair, Regional Support Group - South Asia and Global Biodiversity Working Group for the UN declared International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralism (IYRP) 2026.*

### Session 1

9:30 Global Climate Change and Responses in the Pastoral Socio-ecological Systems

*Session Chair: Dr. Aniket Alam, IIIT Hyderabad*

- Climate Change and Improvised Resilience of Pastoral Communities in Spiti, Himachal Pradesh - Anjali Joy & Rashmi Singh IN-PERSON
- Changing Pastures: Climate Change and Policy Transformations in Gaddi Pastoralism - Kirti Bhatia IN-PERSON
- Weathering Uncertainty: Relational Resilience and Everyday Adaptation in Changthang's Pastoral Systems - Sidak Kaur & Arundhati Jagadish ONLINE
- Climate Uncertainty and the Erosion of Traditional Migration Rhythms in Kashmir - Inayat Chopan ONLINE

11:00 ----- TEA BREAK- 30 MINS -----

11:30 **Session 2**

**Commons, Access & Mobilities in the Pastoral Landscapes**

*Session Chair- Dr. Nanda Kishore Kannuri, University of Hyderabad*

- Adapting to Shrinking Commons: A Study on Rabari Pastoralists in Drylands of Western India - Pujan Mehta IN-PERSON
- Changing Lives of Graziers to Agriculturists: The Sariska Story of Relocation of Villages -Rajesh Kr Gupta ONLINE
- Poverty and Exclusion of Pastoral groups: A Study of Northern Rajasthan - Sudhir Kumar Suthar IN-PERSON
- From Mobility to "Forced" Settlement: Livelihoods, Rights, and Everyday Discrimination Among Mobile Indigenous Communities in UP and Uttarakhand- Meetal Dhaka ONLINE
- Pastoral Mobility and Seasonal Transitions: Ethnographic Insights from the Plains of Himachal Pradesh - Vinay Kumar and Saloni Bhatia IN-PERSON
- Food sovereignty and Access to Commons by Pastoral Nomads in Western Himalayas: From Subsistence to Dependence - Afreen Faridi ONLINE

13:30 ----- LUNCH - 60 MINS -----

**14:30** **Film Release** (15-minute screening followed by a brief open discussion)

*Gyur Se: Shifting Grounds of Agro-Pastoralism in the Trans-Himalaya*  
By Rashmi Singh, Anjali Joy & Wilson Biswakarma

**15:00** **Session 3**

### **Labour, Market & the Pastoral Livelihoods**

**Session Chair : P. Vivekanandan, Chair, South Asia Support Group, IYRP 2026, IIT Hyderabad**

- From Grazing Fields to Fishing Seas: Rethinking Pastoralism Through Fishermen Migration in Coastal Andhra Pradesh - Abhinav Anand IN-PERSON
- The Chilled Frontier: Innovative Cooling Strategies for Nomadic Dairy Value Chains in Western Rajasthan - Bhavuk Vijay & Jahnvi Kanabar IN-PERSON
- Navigating Livelihood Challenges of Migratory Shepherds During Migration in Telangana - Sushanth Kumar ONLINE
- Exploring Land, Laws and Livelihood of Lambada Pastoralism in Telangana - Naresh Rathod IN-PERSON
- What is a Grassland to a Pastoral Nomad? The Case of the Bakkarwals of Jammu and Kashmir - Anita Sharma ONLINE
- Changing Lives in Yuksam, Sikkim : Market Integration, Food Systems, and Pastoral Livelihoods - Abhishek S IN-PERSON

**Cultural programme at 6.30 by the members of the Lambada Tribe of Telangana**

**Day 2 . 9 May 2026**

**9:30** **Session 4**

### **Contested Pastoralism: Ecological Conflict and Co-existence**

**Session Chair : Dr. Rashmi Singh, IIT Hyderabad**

- Between the Domesticated and the Wild: An Ethnography of the Migrant Rajasthani Gurjar Pastoralists in Sheopur District, Madhya Pradesh - Rishi Raj IN-PERSON
- Ravines as Contested Multispecies Landscape: Coexistence, Conflict, and Transformation in the Kuno-Chambal Region, Central India -Shantanu Sharma, Randeep Singh, Kamlesh K. Maurya, Debashish Panda IN-PERSON
- Traditional Pastoralism in a Changing Landscape: Livestock, Knowledge, and Livelihoods in the Haryana Aravallis - Sunil Harsana & Nitesh Kaushik IN-PERSON

- Coexistence in the Commons: Pastoral Grasslands of Surendranagar, Gujarat - Abhinav Rajan & Kavita Mehta IN-PERSON
- 'Doodh ka rishta' in the Changing Times: A Case of Muslim Gujjar Pastoralists of Mandi, Himachal Pradesh - Shaheen Badarudeen IN-PERSON
- ARR and Carbon Credits in the Indian Rangelands: The Social and Ecological Implications - Swastika Kanade & Rashmi Singh IN-PERSON

11:30

TEA BREAK- 30 MINS

12:00

## Session 5

### The Human and Non-Human Entanglements in the Pastoral World

*Session Chair: Dr. Ambika Aiyadurai, IIT Gandhinagar*

- Composing the Rangelands: Multispecies Pastoral Labour in Sikkim - Amshuman Dasarathy, Ajay Immanuel Gonji & Rashmi Singh IN-PERSON
- Multispecies pastoralism at the Forest-Grassland Interface: Ecology, Relationality and Governance in Southern India - Raageshwari Saileshwaran, Amaradeepa Siddhuraju IN-PERSON
- Multispecies Entanglements and Transformation among Gaddi Pastoralists - Sachin Kumar IN-PERSON
- Walking with Buffalo: Multispecies Mobility and Forest Regeneration in Van Gujjar Pastoralism - Manish Kumar & Mohamad Meer Hamja ONLINE

13:30

LUNCH- 60 MINS

14:00

**Film Release** (15-minute screening followed by a brief open discussion)

**Baagal: Pastoralism in Transition at Kangchenjunga Frontier**  
By Rashmi Singh, Anjali Joy & Wilson Biswakarma

14:30

## ROUNDTABLE

*Entangled Intersections: Commons, Climate, Mobility and Multispecies Futures in Indian Pastoralism*

16:00

## Closing remarks & Valediction

*End of conference*