

UNDEVELOPED

EASTERN MOVIES

72, Queensway,  
New Delhi.

DOPE SHEET

8/8/55

Subject: HINDU PILGRIMAGE TO THE HIMALAYAS - "AMARNATH YATRA"

Footage: 500. Light Conditions: Bright sun, & Cloudy Bright.

There are 361 million people in India, the majority being Hindus.

There is a belief in Hinduism, some of your sins committed in the mortal life can be washed off, if you undertake strenuous and difficult pilgrimages. One of these, is the pilgrimage to Amarnath, or Amarnath Yatra.

Amarnath is situated in the deep inner ranges of the Himalayas in the territory of Kashmir. Thousands of Hindus take this arduous trip through the difficult mountain terrain, crossing ice bridges, narrow foot-paths, forever going higher and higher, fighting high altitudes, in the eternal snows of the Himalayas. Amarnath is situated over 14,000 feet above the sea level and the pilgrims mostly coming from the plains have to suffer bitter cold of the mountains. Devotees assemble at Pahalgam, some 60 miles east of the capital of Kashmir, Srinagar. Pilgrims hire ponies, mules, Dadies (sort of a planquin) and Pithus for children. (Pithu literally means, carrying on the back). However, most of the pilgrims walk up all the way, in time to assemble at Amarnath on Jhulna Pooranmashi or the Swin Full Moon Night, a sacred occasion on this day of the Hindu calendar year. It is difficult to say how many of sins can be washed off by taking this pilgrimage but it is hoped that one does feel presence of the Almighty especially from then onwards and is cautious in One's every day actions, showing the path of truth for "Truth Alone Triumphs".

Rolls 1,2,3.& 4. Beautiful valley of Kashmir. The capital of the Jammu & Kashmir State - Srinagar. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, make arrangements for the pilgrims every year, costing several thousands pounds. Long shot of Chasma Shahi or the Royal Spring. We now take you 60 miles East of the Kashmir capital, at Pahalgam. It is from over here that the caravan of pilgrims marches towards the Ice Cave of Amarnath. The march is on. 10,000 pilgrims, on ponies, dandies, pithus and on foot. A holy rivulet passes through this water tunnel, an awe inspiring sight. The narrow foot path is all we have, with sky high mountains on one side and on the other there is the fast rivulet with the speed of quicksilver. There have been reports of accidents, almost everytime there is a pilgrimage on. Cautiously step by step, the pilgrims move onwards, upwards, downwards and the up again. This is one of the most important events of life - to wash off sins. Watch these hundreds of pilgrims, aren't they in a bottleneck. See how they cross this ice bridge. This is Chandan vadi, one of the halts before we finally land up to Amarnath. This is Sheshnag a brief halt - 13,000 feet above sea level. It is surrounded by snow all over. Pilgrims are tired. They settle down for their last camp and get busy in their wordly chores - cooking etc. The holy men must also fill up their bellies. They go in for community cooking. And a refreshing smoke is always welcome after the tedious march. These pilgrims come from various parts of India and most of them live in the plains where temperatures rise from 100 to 110 degrees, and in the severe cold of the mountains they must warm themselves up.

And this is the final day of their four days marck. The journey of 35 miles from Pahalgam to Amarnath is tough. Holy men lead the procession and carry the "CHARI" or the walking stick of god SHIVA. The procession passes through Panjarni, another brief halt on way. These holy men have been leading the procession to Amarnath from the last quarter of a century. Amarnath Ice Cave. Snow covered mountains are seen all round

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mountains are seen all round the cave. This is the destination. It is here where sins are washed off. And these Hindus must start their ~~xxxx~~ lives anew and follow the path of religion, truth and righteousness. This new life begins from Amarnath, the abode of god SHIVA