

Camera : V.PARKASH

Story : SIMHAST FAIR AT UJJAIN.

'B' Type Plus X

Daylight scenes.

Although the Simhast fair takes place in Ujjain, in Central India, every 12 years, the extent of its auspiciousness depends on the movement of the planets. The Astrologers claim that on this day the planetary position made it the most auspicious day in 400 years. The arrangements were made for several million people to bathe at the sacred pilgrimage for which thousands of Sadhus (holy men) had temporarily suspended their jungle life and had come to the town to benefit from this auspicious moment. On such fairs the preference of bathing is given to these Sadhus and for certain hours which were most auspicious, only Sadhus had a right to take a dip in the sacred waters.

The simhast has a significance based on mythology. Simhast means an earthen pitcher, in which nectar was supposed to have been obtained from ocean when gods and demons churned it for hidden treasures. The auspicious time for bathing is calculated on the basis of the planetary position which is also believed to synchronise with the moment when the king of the birds, Garuda, who flew away with the pitcher of nectar, deposited it on the ground. This synchronisation of timing takes place once in 12 years.

Roll I

The Sadhus or the holy men in India, generally keep away from the cities but whenever they do come in groups, they observe pomp and show. Particularly on the Simhast day they must take out a colourful procession which is accompanied by elephants which carry the leader of sadhus.

Long shot of the procession of sadhus as it enters the city in Ujjain for moving towards the bathing ghats. Large number of flags are carried in these processions.

Riding on horseback, beating the drums comes the pilot Sadhu announcing the arrival of the procession.

Sadhus have several sects and these can be distinguished from by the colour and style of banner which some sadhus carry. Shots of sadhus moving in procession carrying various banners and flags.

Shots of sadhus marching in the procession.

Since Sadhus spend most of their time far away from cities, they do observe all the pomp and show when they come to towns. Elephants are essential with such processions. High Priest ride on top of the elephants. Shot of the elephants moving in the procession.

1076850
1269880

Roll 2.

Big crowd lines up on the road side to wait for the arrival of these procession. Since holy sadhus are rather rare in towns, devotees wait with devotion and some keep sitting or standing with folded hands. Various shots.

Some wait on the top of the houses.

Shot of the procession passing through the street in Ujjain.

Roll 3.

General shot of RAM GHAT at Ujjain where it is most auspicious to bathe at the time of Sishast. On the auspicious moments only Sadhus are permitted to take a dip.

The general public is kept off from the bathing spots and Sadhus dash in like a breeze in the holy waters.

Shot of Chief Priest coming fr down from his elephant. He too has come for a dip.

Various shots of bathing scenes in progress.

Roll 4.

For a good look cosmetics are essential after a nice bath. Burnt wood ash is used as talcum powder by the Sadhus. Those who want to look more pretty apply it all over the body and face.

After having a nice bath, smoking with a earthen pipe gives good relaxation. Shot of a sadhu smoking.

Millions come to Ujjain for this festival. They live in the open and do their cooking on the banks of the holy waters. Long shot of the general public and some cooking scenes.

END.