

Namchi Mahotsav 2009 declared open by CM “Peace and Security our greatest achievements”

Namchi: The biggest annual extravaganza of the year, Namchi Mahotsav 2009, began Monday, November 2, at Bhaichung Stadium here. Chief Minister Dr.Pawan Chamling, chief guest on the occasion, declared the three-day Cultural cum Traditional Festival open.

Addressing the gathering at the stadium Chief Minister said, Sikkim is a land of peace and tranquility but the people of the state are yet to appreciate it. He said, “If you want to know the value of peace, go and ask the people of Afghanistan, for the value of life ask the people of Pakistan and to know what poverty is, go and ask the people of Somalia and Ethiopia”. Mentioning that Sikkim today provides total peace and full security, he asserted that this, according to him, “was the greatest achievement of our government”. He urged the people to value the opportunities and the security which the government has provided to them.

Saying that he is now “in the mission to create a new and prosperous Sikkim of tomorrow”, he added, “I don’t have to win anything now but will cherish every win of my people”.

Regarding Namchi Mahotsav 2009, Chief Minister congratulated the organizing committee and the participating troops from different corners of the state as well as the government departments and the Tourism Societies for organizing this three day long festival in such

a lovely way. He urged the organizing committee to give preference to the local talents in such events which, he said, will boost the local talents and will also provide a platform for them.

Their talents will be respected through such events, he added. “If we do not respect our own talents then there will be no one to do so”, he noted. The Mahotsav is a platform to display the traditions and the cultural of different communities of the state and the world as a whole, he said while pointing out that “this festivals is not merely a government-organized event, it is meant for the people of state and they should take the full benefit of it.

Referring to organizing committee’s request to fix the dates for Namchi Mahotsav, he assured to do it soon and also to include the event in the tourism calendar of the state. Sikkim is rich in natural resource and with peace and tranquility added to it “we can promote tourism as the brand name of neat, clean and environment friendly”, he observed. He also announced a number of infrastructural developments for Namchi and South Sikkim which was received by the people with loud cheers. Dr. Chamling later visited the stalls of different communities and the government department stalls. He was accompanied by Mrs. Tika Maya Chamling his cabinet colleagues and officials of South Sikkim.

The inaugural function of the Mahotsav was also addressed by the MLA Namchi Singithang, Binod Rai, Minister for Tourism, Bhim Dhungel, Secretary Tourism, SBS Bhaduria and DC South, AK Singh. During the day, the visitors were entertained with a number of tradition cultural presentations by the Nachyo Babari Group, Gangtok,

Kyongsa Samaj, Geyzing, and Taal Music and Dance Academy, Namchi. In the evening, artists from Nepal along with local artists performed stage shows.