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Arunachal Guv's mantra for growth

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Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen (retd) J J Singh has said the Centre should adopt a resource-based and time-bound strategy for the state's development.

Speaking at the 22nd Statehood Day celebrations here on Wednesday, Singh said the money spent in the state should not be considered as an "expenditure, but investment."

"Whatever support we get from the Centre will be used in a productive

manner. We will work hard to improve the administrative mechanism so that the quality of life improves," he added.

He said the package announced by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his recent visit to the state was just a beginning and a lot of hardwork has to be put in to convert the dreams into a reality.

"We will have to shift ourselves from the 'programme mode' to the 'project mode' to achieve the goals. Many reforms are needed in the administrative, engineering and policy

machinery set up for speeding the development process," he added.

He said the state needs to overcome petty differences and develop a pan-Arunachalee feeling.

"We have to shelve the 'bandh' and the 'ultimatum' culture as they hamper the growth process," he added. Singh upon all sections of people to unite for the state's prosperity.

Expressing concern over the presence of rebel outfits operating in Tirap and Changlang districts, the Governor said development cannot be achieved

in an atmosphere of fear and insecurity.

"Bringing back normalcy in both the districts is my priority and necessary steps have been taken by both the state and the central government in this direction," he said.

Highlighting the achievements of the state in the last few decades, Singh said during the last 45 years, the state progressed slowly but steadily. Today, the state has 18,000 kilometres of road, around 3,000 schools and over 500 health institutions.