

India Does Not Need Leader Tag: Prabhu

[Go Back](#)



*The minister spoke about major development issues and the importance of cooperation in bringing economic integrity in the SAARC region, writes **Arshad Khan***

“India wants its neighbours to make use of our resources and bring prosperity in the region. We don’t need a tag of leader”, said Suresh Prabhu, Union Railway Minister of India while unveiling ‘South Asian Development and Cooperation Report 2015’.

On the role of India in fostering development in the SAARC region he said, “we feel our responsibility abided not only by history but also by obligations to contribute in development of the region. Right now we are growing at 7.5 per cent per annum and the global concessions agree that India’s GDP will grow at the highest rate in upcoming years. We want our neighbouring countries to benefit from our growth.”

The minister spoke about major development issues and the importance of cooperation in bringing economic integrity in the SAARC region in the launch event of the report held at New Delhi on Thursday (June 25).

South Asia which nearly accommodates 1/4th of the total global population has witnessed lowest development in the modern world. Prabhu said, “unless we look the benefits of development, it’s a daunting task for nations to share a common platform. The region must realise its potential and become a guiding force for other regions.”

He added that the region requires cooperation in the water sector as the region predominantly depends on a single source for water supply. Complimenting China’s water pooling capacity he proposed that it is time for the SAARC region to maximise from the water supply and boost its agricultural production. He mentioned cooperation in the water sector as the most important thing the region should explore.

On the sick condition of energy supply in the region he said, “We need to work together on energy sector to overcome the problem of blackout. India heavily invested in Bhutan’s energy sector and at present we are buying electricity from them, making Bhutan the only nation in the region to benefit from the sector.” Prabhu further urged the nations to open their doors for FDI. “Many countries feels FDI will detriment growth; on the contrary it brings economic prosperity in the long run. Trade penetration in the region is below the optimum level, the region needs to increase trade opportunities to improve their output,” said the minister.

‘South Asian Development and Cooperation Report 2015’ is a work of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) which highlights the major challenges of South Asia region and suggestive tools to bring economic prosperity in the region via peace and cooperation.

<http://cdn.bwbusinessworld.com/economy-india/india-does-not-need-leader-tag-prabhu>