

## Prabhu bats for India, Africa free trade pact

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India and Africa should examine if they can enter into a free trade agreement or preferential trade agreement, Union commerce minister Suresh Prabhu has said.

Addressing a conference here, the minister said India's exports of services and merchandise together would touch a record \$540 billion in the current financial year ending 31 March, reflecting its robust economic fundamentals.

"Please think about a free trade agreement between Africa and India. We can think about a preferential trade agreement....and the fundamental principle would be how Africa will benefit first and India later," he said, adding this could be another way of increasing Africa's share in the global marketplace.

The India-Africa trade stands at \$62 billion.

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