

# CII hosts SA envoy to boost trade ties

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) UP chapter hosted a high-level delegation from South Africa led by Prof Anil Sooklal, high commissioner of South Africa to India, during their visit to the state capital.

The interaction brought together industry leaders to explore ways to expand bilateral trade, investment and

technology partnerships between South Africa and UP. Discussions focused on practical collaboration as UP strengthened its position as a preferred investment destination.

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Yawer Ali Shah, convener, CII MSME and export promotion panel, said the state's industrial growth offers strong potential for deeper business engagement

with South Africa. He emphasised the need for concrete partnerships to boost trade, enable technology transfer and promote sustainable industrial development.

Prof Anil Sooklal highlighted the growing presence of Indian companies across sectors in South Africa, reflecting strong economic ties. He identified energy, particularly renewable energy and green hydrogen, as a priority area for collabora-

tion. He added that negotiations towards a free trade agreement between India and South Africa are underway and expected to unlock new trade and investment opportunities.

Industry members also discussed cooperation in agriculture, food processing, manufacturing, skills, infrastructure and sustainable development, expressing interest in joint ventures and institutional partnerships.