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Patel rap for jailbirds

A session for those behind bars, a session to give hope to trapped souls

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PRISONERS reaching for peace, jailbirds looking for answers, will *Chicken Soup for the (Prisoners') Soul* be the next big offering from Yerwada jail?

Minocher Patel, a noted motivational speaker, possibly thought so when he took centre-stage at Yerwada jail, with some 250 murder convicts listening intently. Though initially, prisoners looked at Patel as 'a man from the outside world' trying to impose his good world ideas on them, the session became interactive as Patel weaved in *Sardi jokes* with some pep motivational talks.

The fact that forgiveness leads to happiness, was well-driven when participants penned the names of people they hated and later burnt the script into ashes. By the end, with candles held high in air with one hand on their heart, these prisoners took an oath to move towards higher wisdom and hope.

SHASHANK SANE



GIVING HOPE

For Patel, the motivational programme for prisoners was perhaps the most satisfying. "There

are too many people to tell them

about their mistake and too few to make them feel their worth or inspire them for a better life," he says, "They don't need preachings, they need practical ways to deal with life," he adds.