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## 217 bank employees donate blood, over 40 pledge organs

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As many as 217 employees of the State Bank of India donated blood and 47 pledged to donate their organs at a camp organised in association with Blood Bank and the Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (ROTTO), PGIMER, at the local head office here today.

The event was inaugurated by Rashmi Singh, president, Ladies Club, SBI, Chandigarh Circle.

Addressing the participants, Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Chief General Manager, SBI, Chandigarh Circle, deliberated on SBI's vision and values of societal wellbeing.

He said: "The act of donating one's blood or pledging organs during one's lifetime is the most appreciable deed one can do. It's giving someone a second chance to live and there cannot be anything more altruistic than the 'gift of life'."

Urging his staff to pledge for organ donation, Singh underpinned, "With waiting list getting longer, the

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Dr Vasanthi Ramesh, DIRECTOR, NOTTO

gap between organ demand and availability increasing at a rapid pace and helpless patients dying every day while waiting for a transplant, it is vital that more and more of us pledge for organ donation.”

Commending the social responsibility endeavour of the State Bank of India and endorsing the need for community engagement, Dr Vasanthi Ramesh, Director, NOTTO, said: “We have launched a week-long national campaign on organ donation and it is heartening to see an apex financial institution, State Bank of India, joining hands and committing to take forward the campaign to its multiple branches. This initiative of the SBI will definitely help us garner enough traction for the

cause with the larger sections of society.”

Dr Vasanthi emphasised that the solution to organ shortage is possible only through systematic strengthening of the deceased donor programme. “We don't ever want someone else to suffer a loss in their family. But if it does happen, it'd be magnanimous on their part to give a second lease of life to someone else in their passing,” said Dr Vasanthi.

Dr Suchet Sachdev, Assistant Professor, Blood Bank, PGIMER, expressed his gratitude towards the SBI for supporting the cause and said: “I am sure that through this initiative of the SBI, we get the message out to communities and help saving precious lives.”