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CRPF jawans Pledge organs

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SAVIOURS: More than 1,000 personnel have signed up

New Delhi: More than 1,000 CRPF jawans pledged to donate their organs to AIIMS on Tuesday at an event organized by The Times of India as part of its organ donation campaign.

Dr A P Maheshwari, the inspector general of police, northern sector, CRPF said that organ donation was a noble task and there was an urgent need to dispel myths surrounding it. "Thousands of patients suffering from life-threatening diseases such as kidney or liver failure, await transplant. They are not able to get suitable donors," Maheshwari said, adding they have collected 1,184 organ pledges in the last two days.

In 2011, the CRPF's Mahila Battalion had pledged to donate

their eyes and other body organs at AIIMS's 'brain death donor registry'.

Aarti Vij, the chief of the Organ Retrieval and Banking Organisation at AIIMS, said that the initiative by CRPF was a great act of selfless service to society. "They protect us when they're alive, and they want to keep protecting us when they're gone by donating their organs," said Vij.

Acceptance of brain death in India is low, Vij said. "Patients who are brain-dead have suffered irreversible loss of all brain function and are clinically and legally dead. After natural death, only a few tissues like cornea, bone, skin can be donated; but after brain death, almost 37 different organs and tissues can be donated," she added.