

"Knittathon"
Saga of a Dream...

AIR FORCE WIVES WELFARE ASSOCIATION

वायु शक्ति संगिनी

AFWWA




AIR FORCE WIVES WELFARE ASSOCIATION
वायु शक्ति संगिनी
...from nurturing to realizing

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COMPILED BY

MRS SHASHWATI GHOSH

MRS KALPANA KAUL PHILIP

MRS ANUPAMA PAGE


vayan
vayan
SIZE CHART
LENGTH
WIDTH
NO EXCHANGE NO RETURN


SF-400
68
CAPACITY:


1










1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



वायु शक्ति संगिनी
सशक्त वायु परिवार

GUINNESS WORLD RECORD



वायु शक्ति संगिनी
सशक्त वायु परिवार

Foreword by President AFFWA



Welcome dear readers to a celebration of creativity, camaraderie and compassion.

Through this coffee table book, we embark on a journey that showcases the unflinching efforts of Indian Air Force ladies across the length and breadth of our country who had (and still have) embraced the old art of knitting to make a difference in the lives of others. Within these pages is a story of unparalleled dedication and love transcending the 'mere' art of knitting into an avenue of social service.

Undoubtedly our Sanginis have emerged as beacons of kindness while enriching their own lives in so many ways through knitting.

As you turn the pages of this book, you will witness the remarkable wave of inherent quality that we all possess; to give back to the society. A small idea to skill the Indian Air Force ladies soon blossomed into a big impact - Knittathon.

Knittathon is a story of determination, which we now share with all of you!

Happy reading

Mrs. Neeta Chaudhari
President AFFWA

4

BIRTH OF AN IDEA





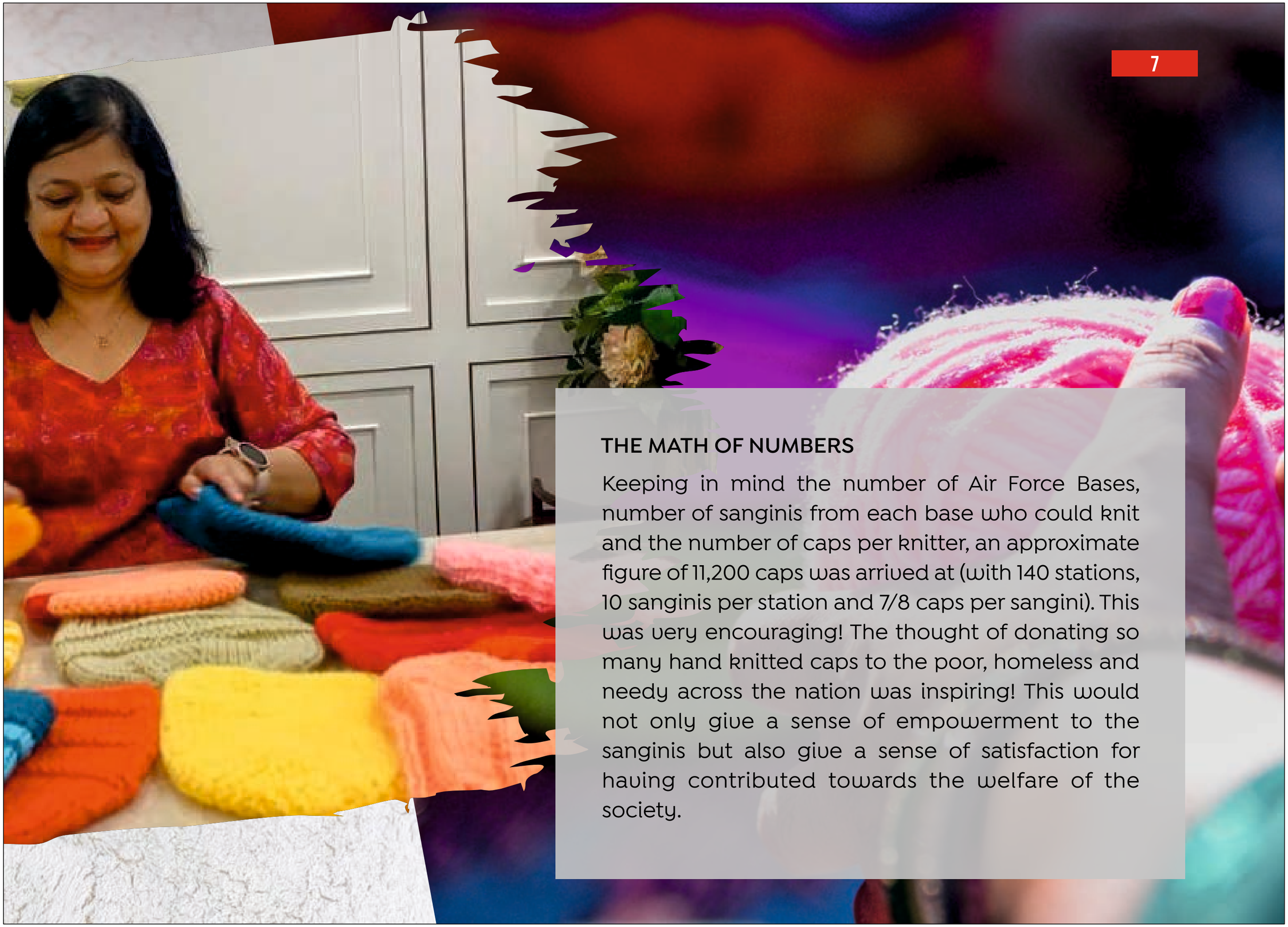




"What activity could be done for the ladies which would require minimum infrastructure and could be easily learnt at home, something that could boost their self-esteem through the satisfaction of mastering a new skill while benefiting the society ?" thought Mrs Neeta Chaudhari, President AFWWA. This question in her mind gave birth to the idea of Knitting.

WHY A CAP ?

As the idea of knitting was firming up, deciding on the type of product to be knitted was the next question. The product had to be something which would be gender neutral, one-size-fit-all, easy to make and could be used by someone in the family or given away in charity. After mulling over these aspects, a cap was found to be the universal answer to all the requirements.



THE MATH OF NUMBERS

Keeping in mind the number of Air Force Bases, number of sanginis from each base who could knit and the number of caps per knitter, an approximate figure of 11,200 caps was arrived at (with 140 stations, 10 sanginis per station and 7/8 caps per sangini). This was very encouraging! The thought of donating so many hand knitted caps to the poor, homeless and needy across the nation was inspiring! This would not only give a sense of empowerment to the sanginis but also give a sense of satisfaction for having contributed towards the welfare of the society.

8

PLANNING AND PROPOSAL



The President AFWWA floated this unique idea of knitting and donating caps, in the Executive committee Meeting. This idea was unanimously accepted. Thereafter the detailed planning commenced.

While the planning to execute this idea was being discussed and worked upon, the President AFWWA was already thinking ahead, as she wanted to provide not just an appreciation certificate from AFWWA, but also a lasting impact on the self-esteem of the sanginis. In the likelihood of the number of caps going higher than the estimated number, an attempt to create a record, possibly a Guinness record was contemplated! A secret dream was being nurtured and the support staff started working towards realizing it





10


Magnus
Magnus
Magnus
Magnus


Vardhmān
Magnus
QUICK KNIT YARN
PREMIUM QUALITY


Please purchase sufficient quantity of one dye lot to ensure the uniformity of color
Recommendations:
40°C
3-4
Vardhmān
Scan for design recipes & latest yarn information


HEALTH SENSE
89
UNIT
TARE


SUNITA SINGH
LU
12, WIANG





TRIALS AND STANDARDIZATION PHASE

To make a record happen, there had to be uniformity and standardization of the caps in terms of size, wool & needles. So the process of checking out different qualities of wool, needles & sizes of caps started. A core team with a few adept knitters was formed. After many trials, this team concluded that 80-100gms of 'Magnus' Vardhaman wool and needle number 4 would make the perfect cap of 9-9.5inches/10inches. To ensure standard quality of the product, it was decided to procure and distribute wool and needles, centrally. To order the raw material, details like number of volunteers and the number of caps they would knit, were sought from each station. Following which, demand for the material was placed with Vardhaman. Distribution of wool and commencement of the drive had to be done as early as possible so that the caps would be ready by October, before the onset of winters.

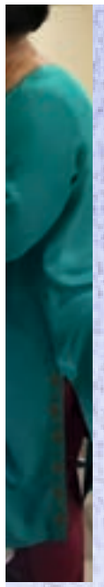
14 nodal points were earmarked, region wise, from where distribution to the stations was regulated. The wool reached the destinations prior to the formal launch of the drive. Simultaneously, tutorial videos were made for ladies to learn to cast stitches and to knit caps. These detailed videos were uploaded on Youtube for easy access by all.





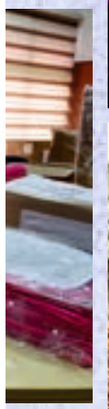






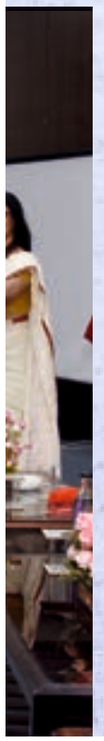



56 stitches casted and knitted upto 8 inches
13












Reduce 6 stitches in alternate rows (Seedhi side mein)


14
Vardhmān
SHADE : BRM694
LOT NO: 296495
PACKED: JULY -2022
NET WEIGHT: 3 KG
VARDHMAN SPINNING & GENERAL MILLS
(A UNIT OF VARDHMAN TEXTILES LTD.)
Chandigarh Road, Ludhiana - 141010
Tel.: +91-161-2228943-48
Customer Care No.: +91-8146625292
E-mail: customercare@vardhman.com


Vardhmān
PRODUCT: DOUBLEKNIT
SHADE : MLL024
LOT NO: 296481
PACKED: JULY -2022
NET WEIGHT: 3 KG
VARDHMAN SPINNING & GENERAL MILLS
(A UNIT OF VARDHMAN TEXTILES LTD.)
Chandigarh Road, Ludhiana - 141010
Tel.: +91-161-2228943-48
Customer Care No.: +91-8146625292
E-mail: customercare@vardhman.com




COTTON
LYCRA






AIR FORCE WIVES WELFARE ASSOCIATION (LOCAL)
FORCE STATION SRINAGAR
KNITTING DRIVE

MISSION KNITTATHON





Mission 'KNITTATHON' was launched across all Air Force Stations on 15 Jul 2022 with great pomp and show. The theme everywhere was the colour PINK. Sanginis participated in large numbers in several competitions organised to mark the event. Very soon, the enthusiasm of the event caught up and many more Sanginis came forward to join the drive. AFWWA offices were tasked to keep a record of all the volunteers at station as well as regional levels. With the participation of Presidents AFWWA at all levels, who were leading by example, around 2000 sanginis registered and thus the number of estimated caps also was going high. More wool was procured. Meanwhile, the process of attempting a record was still being finalised with Guinness book authorities. The preparation for this was on in full swing.

As Mission Knittathon progressed, some competitions were organized on monthly, weekly and daily basis, to boost the morale of the sanginis. Competitions like 'shagun ke gyarah' , 'jaldi five', 'maximum caps in a month', 'max caps in a day' and 'max caps in 12 hrs' kept the knitters engaged and enthused.

During this period, sanginis took the opportunity to gather at different monuments and picnic spots in their vicinity and knit together, spreading joy and happiness.

Sanginis wore their 'thinking' caps literally and figuratively. They displayed great creativity by arranging the caps in different designs and formations. Everyone was caught up in the fervour of knittathon to such an extent that they carried their knitting kit wherever they went.


"KNITTING DRIVE"


KNITATHON MEET
56 ASP AIR FORCE STATION FARIDABAD


11BRD AFWWA(L) PRESENTS
COMMENCEMENT
OF
THE
KNITTATHON
DRIVE
By
Mrs. RUCHIRA PANDE
PRESIDENT AFWWA(R) HQ MC
15 JUL 22







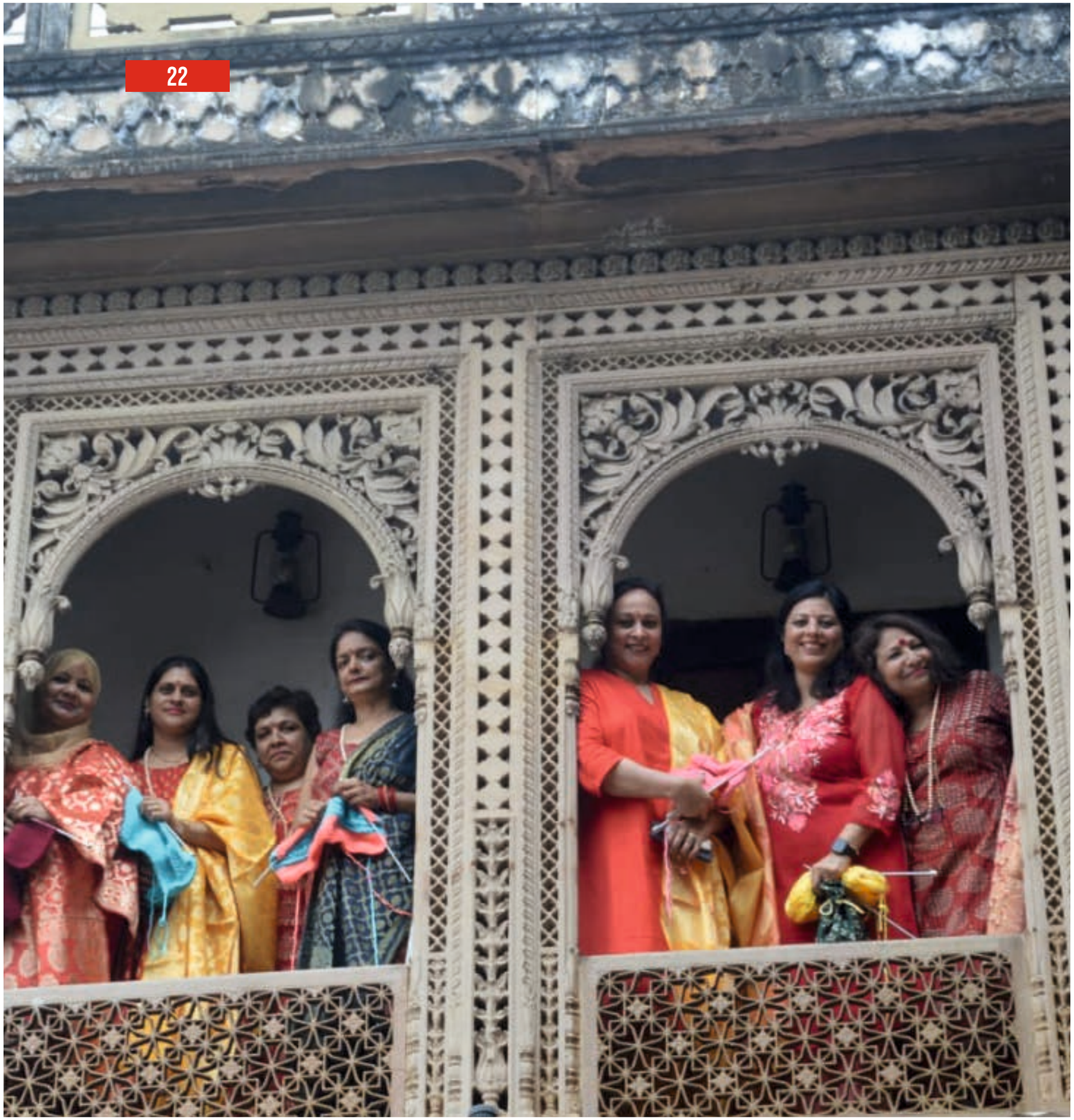

Happy Knitting

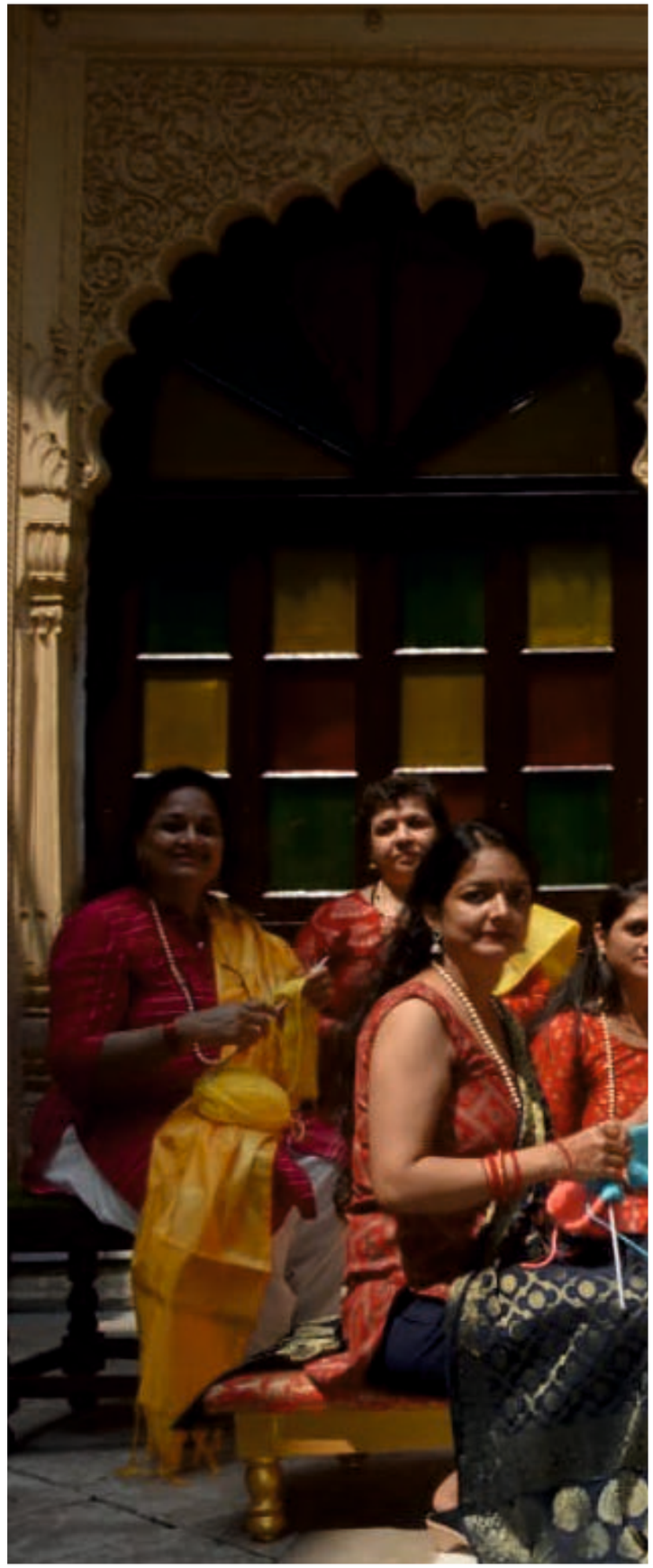













AFWWA












AIR FORCE WIVES WELFARE ASSOCIATION (REGIONAL)
HEADQUARTERS MAINTENANCE COMMAND, IAF
KNITTATHON DRIVE - 2022

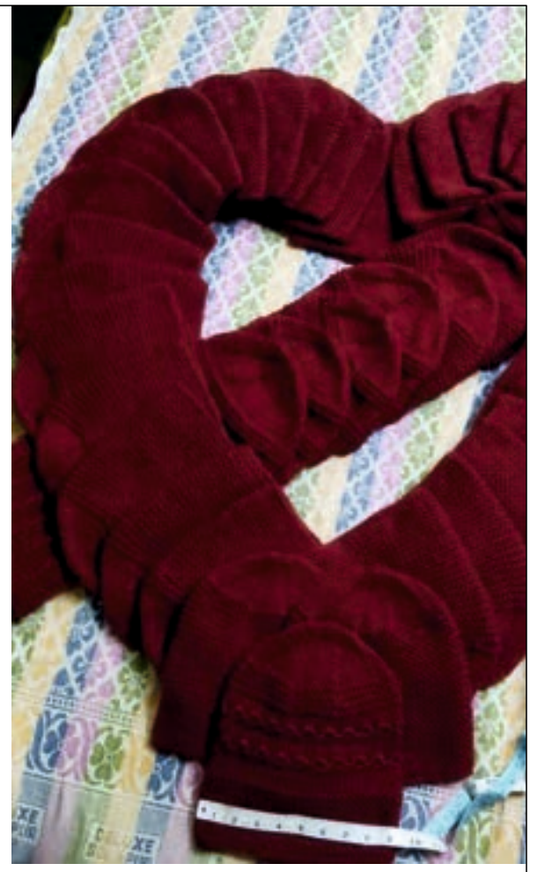






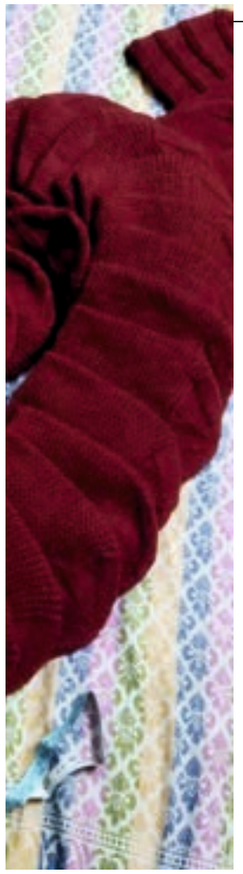

AFWWA (L)
PINKATHON: KNITTATHON
DT: 15 JUL 2022



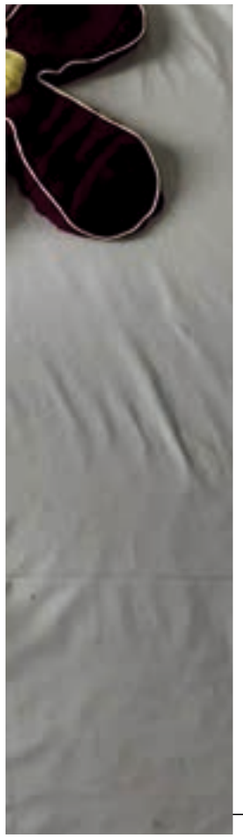





1 WING
1 TEAM








LSEG
















VIOLET
INDIGO
BLUE
GREEN
YELLOW


JODHPUR








Mahindra
DLX
Arjun
ultra-1
605 DI
SYNCHRO



TAJ MAHAL, AGRA



INDIA GATE, NEW DELHI



VIDHAN SOUDHA, BENGALURU



SUVARNA SOUDHA, BELAGAVI



QUTUB MINAR, NEW DELHI







TRIVATI NATH MANDIR, BAREILLY



GWALIOR FORT, GWALIOR



DIKSHABHOOMI, NAGPUR



ROOMI DARWAZA, LUCKNOW



GOLCONDA FORT, HYDERABAD





LODI GARDEN, NEW DELHI







LACHIT GHAT, GUWAHATI



AGRA FORT, AGRA






I AFSJAMMU








RANU
PARSE


AFWWA (L), BEGUMPET







40

FROM YARN TO WARMTH





The team KNITTATHON had a final count of 3000 sanginis from across 140 Air Force Stations spanning the entire country. To attempt the Guinness record, all these caps had to be collected, clearly laid out, numbered and photographed for display, at a single venue. To meet this requirement, all the knitted caps had to be brought back to AFWWA HQ. The knitted caps were first segregated colour wise, tagged with AFWWA logo, and packed in zip lock bags in stations. These were then collected and dispatched onwards in trunks, cartons etc. to AFWWA HQ, at New Delhi.






HQ SWAC, (AF)
GANDHINAGAR
From
AFWWA (L)
33WG, (AF)
JAMNAGAR
CARTON – 2/3
QTY – 10*11=110 CAPS
To
AFWWA (R)
HQ SWAC, (AF)
GANDHINAGAR
From
AFWWA (L)
33WG, (AF)











In Delhi, multiple teams of sanginis segregated all the caps colour-wise, measured each cap to ensure size as per specifications, numbered and clicked pictures of each cap. As per the initial estimate, 30000 caps were expected to have been knitted. However, as counting and numbering started, the teams realized that the count was far more than the expected numbers! Going by a rough estimate, about 36000 tags were printed initially.


AFWWA (L)
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव






KNITTATHON
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव






WHEN
LIFE
GIVES
YOU
LEMONS


5896
5897


10730
10731


OX NO. 09





The next step was display and live counting with the Guinness representative. This called for diligent and meticulous planning and perfect execution, as this entire process was to unfold on 15 Oct 2022, on the occasion of AFWWA Day celebrations. 20 wooden stands were constructed and placed in the lawns of Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park for display. The display was planned in the form of waves. As the work progressed, the team realized that the number of stands were insufficient for displaying all the caps. The carpenter was tasked to urgently create more stands. Finally, it took 26 stands for the display.

D Day





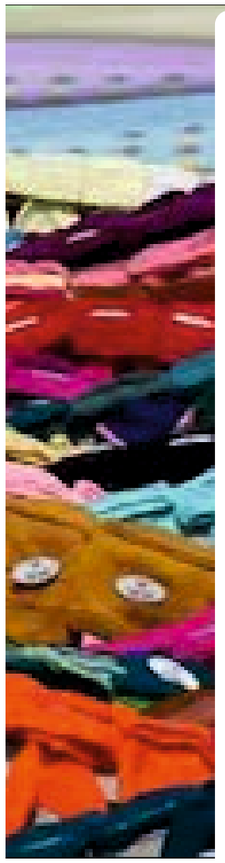


D DAY

Knitting, collecting, segregating, tagging, and numbering all done, the caps were put on display in the lawns of the Air Force Auditorium.

The caps were arranged in the form of waves, in the lawn, in keeping with the theme for the day 'hansi khushi ki lahrein'. The colour order of the caps was carefully chosen to avoid merging and to ensure a clear display of each cap..

At the break of dawn on 15 Oct 2022 the mammoth counting process began, in the presence of Guinness India representative Mr Rishi Nath, adjudicator and two knitting experts and Youtubers Ms Ritu Nagpal and Ms Sushma Kuhar. The process of counting was facilitated by a group of sanginis, armed with body cameras and designated as line managers for each of the 26 lines of display. This entire exercise was being shot on Go Pro camera, wherein each cap was zoomed in , when its number was called out. The last cap counted was number 41541, at 1000 hrs. Thus the Air Force Wives Welfare Association, formally etched its name in the Guinness Book of World Records for maximum number of hand knitted caps by a group.











Honorable Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh ji, Guest of Honour visited the venue to see the grand display, the outcome of a herculean effort and also to encourage the sanginis for the effort.

Minister of Women and Child Development Smt Smriti Irani, the Chief Guest for the event, on seeing the display was inspired by this idea of women empowerment and impressed by the magnitude of the effort. She promised to learn and knit a cap herself and add to the contribution for the donation drive. Within a few days despite her busy schedule, Smt Smriti Irani knitted a few caps for this cause.

The day 15 Oct 2022, apart from creating this record, witnessed yet another momentous event- rechristening of Air Force Wives Welfare Association to Air Force Families Welfare Association.


AFWWA




AFWWA


AFWWA










AFWWA




AFWWA


AFWWA




AFWWA


Air Force Wives Welfare Association
AFWWA DAY CELEBRATION 2022




AFWWA

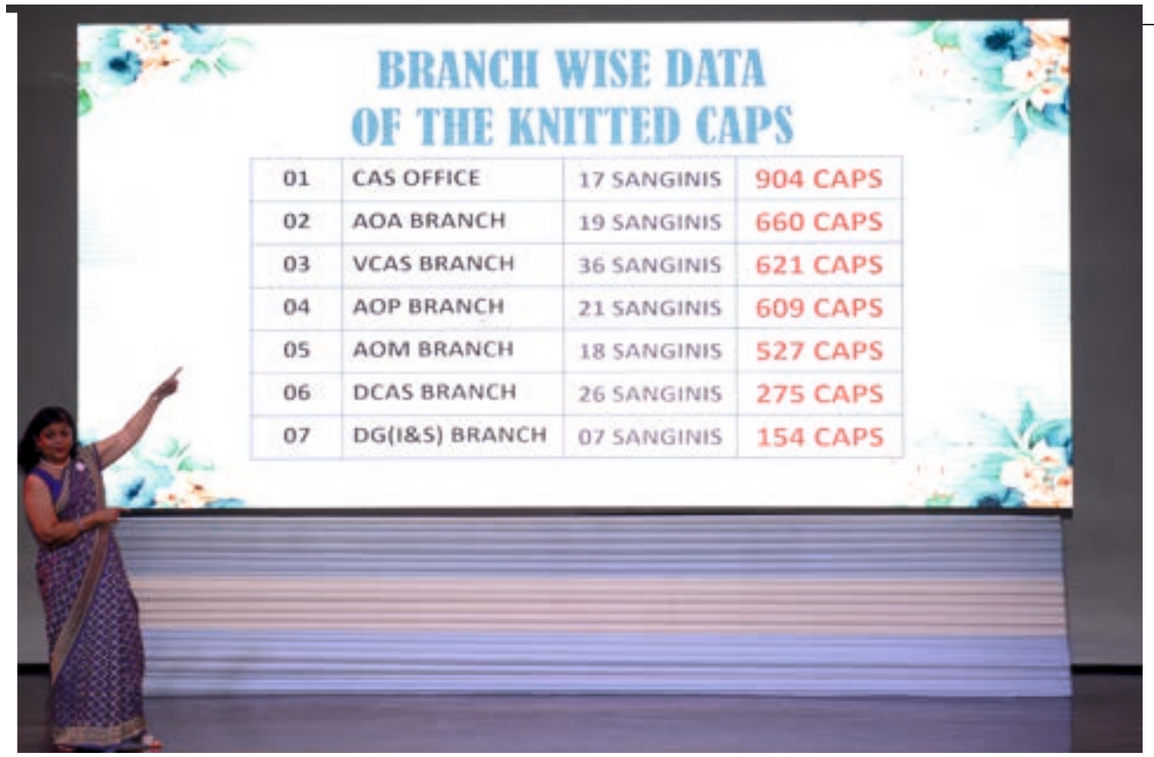





Air Force Wives Welfare Association
AFWWA DAY CELEBRATION
2022




GUINNESS
WORLD RECORDS
NEW WO D RECORD BY AFWWA


BRANCH WISE DATA
OF THE KNITTED CAPS
01 CAS OFFICE 17 SANGINIS 904 CAPS
02 AOA BRANCH 19 SANGINIS 660 CAPS
03 VCAS BRANCH 36 SANGINIS 621 CAPS
04 AOP BRANCH 21 SANGINIS 609 CAPS
05 AOM BRANCH 18 SANGINIS 527 CAPS
06 DCAS BRANCH 26 SANGINIS 275 CAPS
07 DG(I&S) BRANCH 07 SANGINIS 154 CAPS


61
41,541
HANDKNITTED CAPS BY AFWWA


AFWWA


वायु शक्ति संगिनी
AFWWA DAY CELEBRATION


Presented To
AFWWA (Regional), HQ CENTRAL AIR COMMAND
for it's invaluable Contribution and Commitment towards the
"AFWWA KNITTATHON DRIVE 2022"
Participating AFWWA d.Is
With Best Compliments
Mrs Neeta Chaudhari
President AFWWA


AFS TAMBARAM
AFAC


Participating AFWWA d.Is




ing AFWWA (L)s
URYALANKA
Mrs Nee
President


19. WAC (U)
20. 1 Tettre
21. 1 AFSB
22. 1 FBSU
23. 8 FBSU
24. 260 SU
25. 2416 SQN
26. 1 TAC
27. 39 WG
28. MCC
29. 503 SU
30. 230 SU
31. 56 ASP
32. Adv HQ Jaipur
Mrs Ne
Presiden


Participating AFWWA (L)s
1. 2 Wg
2. 26 Wg
3. 27 Wg
12. 33 SU
13. 47 SU
14. 272 SU
15. 77 SU
16. 815 SU
17. 830 SU
18. 2 TAC
19. SWAC (U)
20. Adv HQ SWA
21. 750 SU
Knitted Warmly


Participating AFWWA (L)s
"AFWWA KNITTATHON DRIVE 2022"
1. 5 Wg
2. 6 Wg
12. 51 ASP
13. 62 SU
14. 799 SU
15. 825 SU
16. 507 SU
17. 5 APH
18. 14 FBSU
19. 21 FBSU
20. EAC(U)
21. ADV HQ EAC
22. 509 SU


RCE NEW DELHI


237O CAP
WESTER AIR MMAN


I CAPS
ST ION W DEL I


PS
VAYU HAWAN


S NITU SINGH
112 CAPS
AOM BRANCH


OFFICE CAS


8. AFWWA (L) AFND
9. AFWWA (L) SDI
10. AFWWA (L) ASTE
nitted


EADQUARTERS (VB)


CAPS
E C MMAN





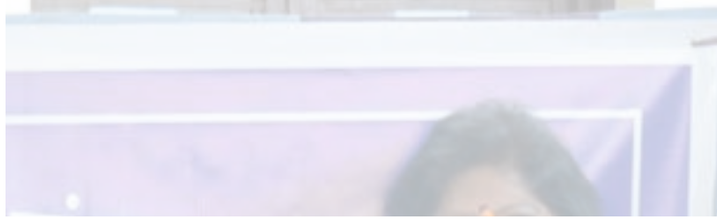
FROM
AFWWA TO AFFWA

DISTRIBUTION & CULMINATION





All the 41541 caps on display, were packed into large trunks for distribution to various command headquarters and further to stations for donating to the poor and needy, across the country.







The process of distribution, like all other phases of 'Knittathon', was well planned. A consolidated list of old age homes, shelters for the poor, homeless and destitute, across all the commands was prepared and vetted [for authenticity]. The climate of the place, the number of poor around the place, number of caps knitted by the station, to name a few, were amongst the criteria for the number of caps to be sent to a particular station/command. The endeavor was also to involve the sanginis who had knitted the caps, in this gigantic donation drive. The underlying motto behind this endeavor was to let the cap makers experience the 'joy of Giving' and also give them a sense of satisfaction with this philanthropic activity.






BOX NO. 30






अभय गृह
अभय गृह
SPYM
SPYM



This act of donating the hand knitted caps, at the onset of winter, not only brought smiles on the faces of people who received them, but also caught the attention of Limca Book of Records. The effort and reach was duly recognized, and AFWWA secured a place in **Limca Book for maximum number of donations at multiple venues in one single day.**


DUSIB




AIR FORCE STATION YELAHANKA
KAITTATHON DONATION DRIVE
29 OCT 2022










DUSIB




BOX NO. 25
BOX NO. 17


BOX NO. 23
BOX NO. 18







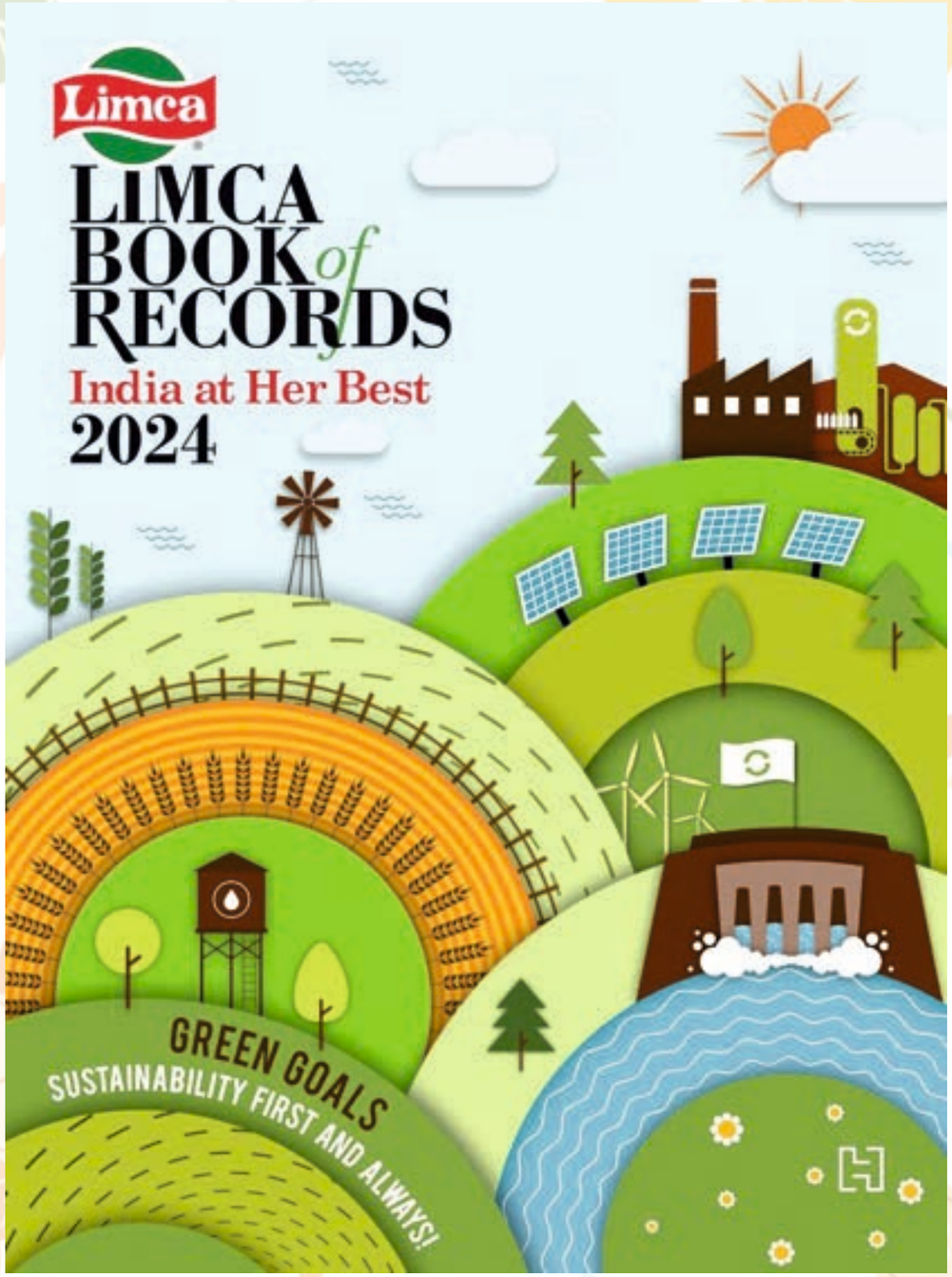

WELFARE ASSOCIATION
VAYU SHAKTI SANGINI
DISTRIBUTION OF
KNITATHON CAPS 2022
AIR FORCE STATION, JAMNAGAR







LIMCA BOOK OF RECORDS



WOOLLEN CAPS FOR EVERYONE!

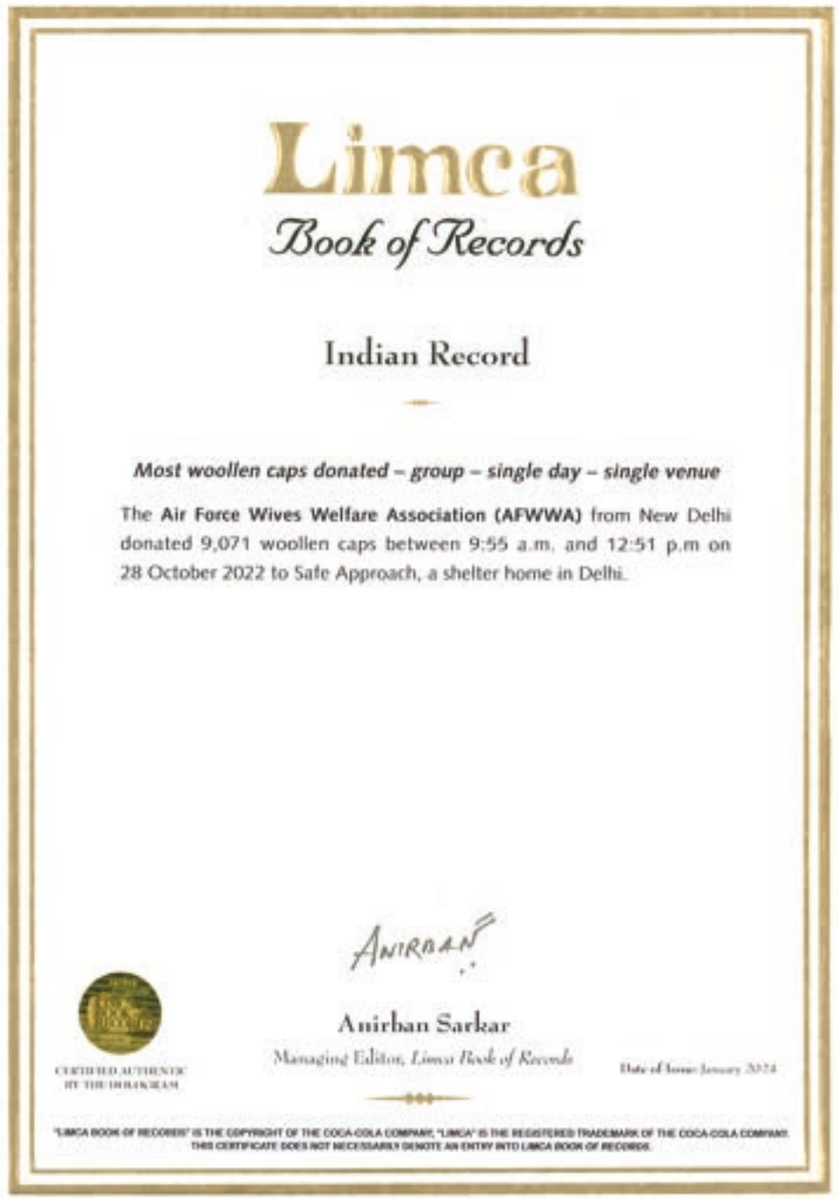


1 Most woollen caps donated – group – single day – single venue

The Air Force Wives Welfare Association (AFWWA) from New Delhi donated 9,071 woollen caps to Safe Approach, a shelter home in Delhi on 28 October 2022 between 9:55 a.m. and 12:51 p.m. There were 19 people involved in the donation. Each cap measured 22.86–26.67 cm (9–10.5 in.) in length and 43.18–50.8 cm (17–20 in.) in circumference.

2 Most woollen caps donated – group – single day – multiple venues

The Air Force Wives Welfare Association (AFWWA) from New Delhi donated 41,541 woollen caps to three welfare organizations in Delhi on 28 October 2022 between 9:31 a.m. and 12:51 p.m. There were 58 people involved in the donation. Each cap measured 22.86–26.67 cm (9–10.5 in.) in length and 43.18–50.8 cm (17–20 in.) in circumference.


Limca
Book of Records
Indian Record
Most woollen caps donated – group – single day – single venue
The Air Force Wives Welfare Association (AFWWA) from New Delhi donated 9,071 woollen caps between 9:55 a.m. and 12:51 p.m on 28 October 2022 to Safe Approach, a shelter home in Delhi.
Anirban Sarkar
Managing Editor, Limca Book of Records
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Limca
Book of Records
Indian Record
Most woollen caps donated – group – single day – multiple venues
The Air Force Wives Welfare Association (AFWWA) from New Delhi donated 17,071 woollen caps between 9:31 a.m. and 12:51 p.m. on 28 October 2022 to three welfare organizations in Chilla Khadar, Sarai Kale Khan, and Yamuna Pusta in Delhi.
Anirban Sarkar
Managing Editor, Limca Book of Records
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IMPACT OF KNITTATHON

The Knittathon drive was a huge success. In the end, it achieved more than what was envisaged at the beginning and during the journey. The unquantifiable yet tangible effects manifested in stories of bonding between sanginis, therapeutic effect for patients suffering from hypertension/depression and perhaps also interesting tales to narrate to our grand children !









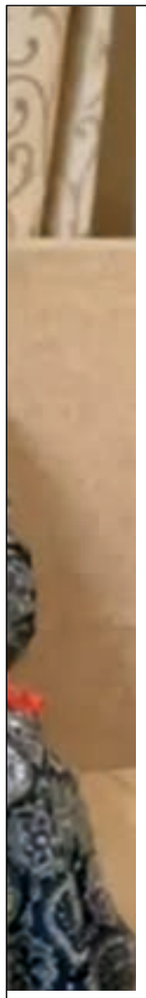





I'M A KNITTER WHAT'S YOUR SUPER POWER?
TO BE HONEST... I'D RATHER BE Knitting
Laugh, knit, eat, knit, sleep, knit, repeat from the start.
KNIT
KNITTING IS THE NEW YOGA
IF I COULD JUST FIND
READ & KNIT
WOULD BE PERFECT
IF I'M SITTING I'M KNITTING
NETFLIX AND KNITTING
KNITTING IS THE ANSWER.
I don't care what the question was
LIVE LAUGH LOVE Knit







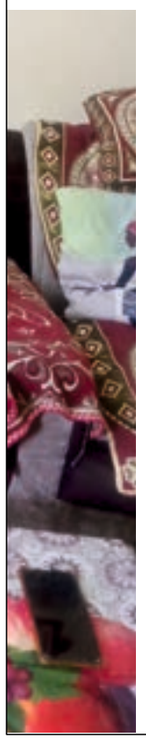

AIR FORCE STATIO
SURYALANKA
IF I AM SITTING




79




Knittathon
BAGDOGRA






15 JULY 22 KNITTATHON 15 JULY 22
WARMLY KNITTING TOGETHER WITH LOVE
KNITTING IS THE NEW YOGA
A DAY WITHOUT KNITTING IS LIKE A DAY WITHOUT SUNSHINE
KNITTING IS THE SAVING OF LIFE

A NEW BEGINNING



The entire exercise of conceiving, planning and executing the idea of 'Knittathon', could well be a case study for any management programme that would be talked about in years to come. An idea that brought together the entire community of sanginis across the length and breadth of the country and motivated them to work towards a common goal, needed to be taken to its rightful culmination. To nurture and realize a dream, to mobilize a motivated work force and to provide them a platform that would take forward the recognition of the skill of knitting beyond a mere certificate on the wall-a step forward was imperative. Thus was born 'VAYAN' which would not only ensure financial empowerment, but also a recognition to all involved.

Vayan started with hand knitted baby clothes, with best possible standards of packaging and marketing.


vayan
KNITTED WITH LOVE
INDIAN AIR FORCE WIVES

SASHAKT SANGINI FEST, MAR 2023



VAYAN EXHIBITION AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS













TRI-SHAKTI FEST, OCT 2023






AIR FORCE WIVES WELFARE ASSOCIATION
वायु शक्ति संगिनी
AFW


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And the saga knits on.....


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