

Women of Dadara form 'Hargila Army'



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An army is created to defend a cause, and when women form an army for a cause they believe in earnestly, nothing remains impossible. The women of Dadaravillage in Assam have been slowly but steadily leading a crusade under the leadership of Dr. Purnima Devi Barman for the conservation of the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork which is locally known [as](#) *Hargila*. The families of Dadara have adopted the rare stork [as](#) their own, and the species which was on the brink of extinction are slowly getting a new lease of life. **70 women of all ages have now come together to form an 'Army' ready to combat all obstacles in the path of Hargila conservation.** Their sheer dedication and commitment have got a tremendous boost with the support and encouragement that have poured in from all quarters. Kamrup District Administration has been a staunch supporter of the campaign, and even donated 100 hoardings, all with the messages of Hargila conservation.

[One](#) of the biggest challenges for the HargilaArmy was finding a way to create awareness for Hargila conservation while also finding self-empowerment. [As](#) an answer to this quandary, the State Institute of Rural [Development](#) (SIRD) has stepped forward with a helping hand. All 70 women are now on the path to becoming experts in creating textiles with Hargila motifs! **The SIRD has sponsored 4 months of [training](#) for the women of Dadara at the Fashion Institute of Sualkuchi.** It is an opportunity which they could not envisage even a few months ago.

In an event today, SIRD distributed handloom machines and yarn to the Hargila Army, to supplement the [training](#). Speaking on the occasion, Dr. K.K. Dwivedi, Commissioner [Panchayat](#), said that, ***“The women of Dadara are now on a new path of empowerment and conservation. The [training](#) from the Fashion Institute of Sualkuchi is the first step towards creating a Hargila Centre at Dadara. With the sale of these textiles the families of Dadara will be able to continue their crusade for Hargila conservation while also becoming economically self-reliant.”*** Dr. Dwivedi also urged each woman to plant atleast 5 trees to increase nesting space for the Greater Adjutant.

Shri Vinod Sheshan, DC, Kamrup expressed his support towards the Hargila Army by stating, ***“The Kamrup District Administration is always ready to provide any support that can facilitate Greater Adjutant Stork conservation. The Hargila tableau on Republic Day Parade was a huge [success](#), [as](#) was the plantation drive for creating more nesting space for the Hargila.”***

Also present in the event, held at Bhrigu Kumar Prekhabhawan, Dadara was Jakir Hussain, Director, SIRD, Mohan Chandra Malakar, Retd PCCF and Chief [Wildlife](#) Warden, Udayan Borthakur, [wildlife](#) biologist, [Aaranyak](#), Dr. Purnima Devi Barman, [Aaranyak](#) in addition to the villagers of Dadara. Shri Vinod Sheshan, DC, Kamrup, a staunch supporter of the Greater Adjutant [Conservation](#) Project, had provided the venue.

There are only 1200 Greater Adjutant Storks alive at present, out of which, 80% are [found](#) in Assam. This can be attributed to a large extent to the untiring efforts of Dr. Purnima Devi Barman of [Aaranyak](#).

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