

BORO DIASPORA FORUM

PRESS RELEASE

The following statement is issued for the information of the general public.

Boro Diaspora Forum (BDF) is conceived as a no-profit, non-political society. The current members of the BDF come from diverse professional backgrounds living in India and abroad and include academics/educationists, scientists, writers, artists, social workers, filmmakers, those in corporate sectors, serving and retired Civil Servants and so on.

Boros excelling in every field of endeavour is in the vision of the Forum. We would like to see the community attain all round advancement, and its culture and traditions promoted and preserved. The community has a responsibility to strive for equity and justice in society including gender justice and contribute to nation building as equal partners with dignity and honour.

We aim, in our own humble way, to work towards fulfillment of this vision by networking for, and synergizing ideas and knowledge, and partnering with concerned agencies, government and non-government.

BDF had its beginnings as a small WhatsApp group of some members of the Boro community living in the diaspora in India and abroad. In the last one year and a half of its life, the Forum has undertaken some socially relevant activities. During last year's lockdown, its members provided relief to thousands of migrant workers from among the community and their colleagues from other communities in collaboration with other organizations. BDF has held online seminars and interactive meetings involving MLAs/MCLAs, eminent sportspersons, and sports administrators. Mr. Pramod Boro, the CEM of BTC has attended all the programmes to which he had been invited.

BDF launched its website, borodiaspora.org and released the first issue of the e-newsletter, *The BDF Laisi* on 15th August 2021, India's Independence Day. Musri R.S. Mooshahary, the former Governor of Meghalaya formally launched the website while Prof. Anil Boro of Gauhati University released the e-newsletter.

The Forum has very eminent personalities in its panel of advisers.

The BDF recognizes that the Boros have lagged behind most other ethno-linguistic groups in human development index. Sensitizing the youth, policy makers and elected representatives about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) is one of our objectives. With the establishment of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) under the Sixth Schedule, and of late the Boro-Kachari Welfare Autonomous Council, the political aspirations of the community have received some recognition. The inclusion of the Boro language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution is a step forward. With all their limitations, these arrangements are helping the community to improve their lot in many ways. We, in the BDF commit ourselves to contribute to the process of this progress of the community.

Dr. Nirala Ramchiary, JNU, New Delhi
General Secretary, BDF

Pinuel Basumatary
President, BDF

Date: 27 August, 2021