

# National Handloom Council Members



Name: **Sakina Ansari**

Role in WICCI: **National President Handloom council**

**Profile:** Sakina Ansari, born in Chennai, did her schooling in Bangalore and came back to Chennai for College. An athlete, bharathnatyam dancer, theatre artist, during her school and college days, excelled in what she did. Completed her B.A Literature in SIET College, Chennai. Has been a hands on Mother of three from 1983 to 2000 and continued doing that. Life taught her to be positive, to have sympathy and empathy, to be grateful and kind. Is spiritual and believes in Karma or the law of resonance.. Started her entrepreneurial journey with kids clothing in 1995 and then moved on to designing pret and couture for friends and family.

Has her own Label, INAM. Right now re-working her label Philosophy with handlooms and the weaver community. Her passion for art, creativity, fashion, accessories and life style products propelled her to open a concept store called MAALGAADI. Joined ALL Ladies League in 2017 which helped her to lead, join hands, connect and grow in the spirit of sisterhood, beyond borders.

CEO of a Corporate E Commerce Company called GOOD LIFES. Believes in the growth and upliftment of women, which will help society at large. Also believes in leaving less carbon foot prints behind, loves nature and doing her bit to save the planet.



Name: **Alakananda Das**

Role in WICCI: **Vice President National Handloom council**

**Profile:** Alakananda Das, born in Guwahati Assam. Graduated from Miranda House, Delhi University. She lived her childhood days away from her hometown in remote areas of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh to name a few due to her father's Government transferable job. Later she settled in Delhi and soon after her marriage she came back to Assam and made it her permanent home. She has been blessed with two children- son and a daughter.

Started her career as a high school and elementary school teacher in Guwahati. She made a switch to the beauty industry in early 2000's as a network marketing advisor. Worked for companies like Avon, Mary Kay, Ecosway etc.

After working for few years in this industry, she knew she had to start her entrepreneurial journey. Her mother being a traditional handloom wear designer so she had grown up with handwoven textiles all her life. She knew her calling was as a fashion and textile designer. Founder of CPink a designer boutique outlet for innovative traditional handloom wear along with textile innovation. With knowledge of grassroots handloom-weaving industries in rural India, started an NGO named TOGORR (Traditional Opportunities Growth of Rural Resources) that understands the rural issues and take measures to control and reduce Rural to Urban migration. They strive hard towards the wellness of the people in the Rural areas and empower the villagers in developing their financial status in various sectors like upgrading

weaving technology, handicrafts, traditional jewellery and on recycling projects etc. Constantly striving in solving issues which goes beyond one problem solution. Closely connected with rural societies in Assam and rest of the region by providing for their basic needs and uplifting them. She is also closely associated with KVIC and NHDC gives her the opportunity and right platform to voice out the rural development problems in today's world. Under her days in FICCI Flo as vice chairperson for Northeast Chapter, she had successfully completed a village adoption programme by uplifting their handloom skills and provided them with market linkage and even set-up a drinking water treatment plant. With KVIC she is working towards upgradation of various cluster

Her post and recognition in the society-

Awarded **Women of the Decade** for **\*community development\*** at WEF 2018 New Delhi

Ex Vice Chairperson FICCI Flo Northeast Chapter: 2016- Chairperson All Ladies League Northeast Chapter: 2017 - present-

Northeast Coordinator for Women Economic Forum 2018 – present Executive Member of Heartcare Society, Assam-

Working President Heartcare Society ladies forum, Assam- Treasurer Heartcare Society, Guwahati Chapter-

Executive Member for Delhi Alumni Association of Assam



Name : Asha Daniels

**Role in WICCI : National Handloom Council Member**

**Profile:** "I am Asha Daniel, Founder of Imago Image Consulting. I am a certified Image Coach, Personal Branding and Corporate Consultant with over 21 years of corporate experience with many multi-national organizations in leadership positions. I have long been fascinated by the power of image and the way people can use their personal brand to positively influence their own career. Having spent years observing, supporting and influencing people's career, today I dedicate my time and efforts in helping people and their organizational persona to evolve." Over the years, I have conducted several workshops for professionals, young adults, one to one consultations, corporate trainings etc."I am a coach and mentor for Directors and MD's of a few organization and is an Executive Trainer for Luxury Academy, London, representing South and West India""As a Rotarian I have held leadership positions in the club and district level and spend my spare time in social service. Currently am the Women Empowerment Associate Chairperson for the Chennai District."I am also a PINK Ambassador for "India Turns Pink", an NGO that spreads awareness on breast cancer.I am a keen learner and firmly believe that unlearning and relearning is part of adapting to change. "\*I am happy to be part of this initiative (though handloom is new for me) with so many dynamic ladies and hoping to make a difference in the lives of Artisans and Craftsmen by showcasing their work that empowers them.



**NAME : Kamini Anilkumar**

**Role in WICCI : National Handloom Council Member**

**Profile:** Hello Everyone! I am very glad to be part of this group and I am very confident with every talent and might here, we will achieve tremendous outcome. Meanwhile, here is a little about me. I am Kamini, a graduate in English Literature and a Diploma holder in Fashion designing. Then moved on to a field which had nothing to do with what I studied aka Automotive industry. I have 20 years worth of experience in product development and Sales in Auto Industry. I have also been part of the Greenfield project for a German leather tannery. As time passed by, I realized my interest was elsewhere. Thus I started curating handloom clothes and selling them through Social media platforms under the brand name 'Blossoms' by Kamini Anilkumar.

I am novice and still continue to learn as it's a labyrinth out there when it comes to Indian weaves. I am glad I met Sakina and Beena Unnikrishnan. Happy to be part of WICCI handloom chapter. I am super excited to learn and hoping to meet all you ladies in the near safe future. Lets Rock!!!



**NAME: Rachna Kumar**

**Role in WICCI: National Handloom Council Member**

**Profile:** I am Rachna Kumar a graduate from Chandigarh University! I feel blessed to have celebrated life and my relationships and have lived life with no regrets, apologies and insecurities. I have enjoyed my role as a Designer, daughter, friend, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and have felt empowered in all the roles I have played. Love, live, learn and laugh are my mantra to be a woman of today!!

I still believe in Unicorns and rainbow because they lift spirits to do things with COMMITMENTS and Elan. I held a post of secretary at FLO, that was my expression ground and I truly blossomed there! I am a food curator, I have done customized fashion for people from all walks of life. I am Vice President of Hamswadhani for more than two decades, I have done talk shows, I am on the board of two companies - C-Net communications and Code base.

I believe in the spirit of WE, together we can bring about the change the world needs! So here I am extending my hand, humbled (reading all your achievements) and excited (because I am in August company) that you all are with me in this journey where we Reinvent, Reset and Recreate the magical Handloom sector!

Secretary at FLO



**NAME: Sabita Radhakrishnan**

**Role in WICCI: National Handloom Council Member**

Profile : Sabita Radhakrishnan is a freelance writer, Food columnist and broadcaster and was associated for over twenty years with Doordarshan and A.I.R. as a script writer and Programme hostess. A playwright, her SONG of the LOOM was staged by Madras Players in March 2008. Sabita Radhakrishnan has had hands-on experience with textiles for over 30 years. An active member of the Crafts Council of India. Senior Consultant CERC (Craft Educational Research Centre) Kalashetra Foundation from 2009-2013. Was the first to introduce the concept of the mismatched blouses, first in Mumbai through exhibitions and later all the metros. Was the first to introduce blouse pieces with woven borders and motifs on sleeves and back, and marketed the same through her boutique. Was on the Central Board of Film Certification for a full term. Designed a complete collection of hand painted natural dye fabrics, saris blouse pieces, dress material and household linen for an Exhibition held in Delhi by the Delhi Craft Council in the mid nineties. Sabita was Design Consultant for Mafatlal New Sorrock Mills based in Nadiad in the early eighties. Sabita has been induced into the Advisory Panel of Demacare a unit of SCARF India (Schizophrenia Research Foundation). SCARF India recently launched "DEMCARES" a Dementia Care Unit.

She started the 60 handloom sarees pact which encourages women to wear handloom sarees at least 60 times a year. About 1200 members have joined the pact so far as of today (July 26th 2015)



**NAME : Shreya Kamalia Nair**

**Role in WICCI : National Handloom Council Member**

**Profile:** Thank you Sakina for having me in your council. It means much and I'd love to support you in every step forward. Dear Members, I'm Shreya Kamalia Nair "Director at Viia Design Pvt Ltd, which houses Labels Vivek Karunakaran and VK Spirit, Design Consultant at Evolv Clothing and nurturing a very young team towards a Men's wear Label Launch and (my most favourite) Mom to our 4 year old." "I look forward to working with all the members under Sakina's leadership on Handlooms which I have been very passionate about." "I don't seem to know most of you and look forward to connecting soon."





**NAME : Shubhra Saxena**

**Role in WICCI : National Handloom Council member**

Profile: "At Urban Ethic our primary aim is to promote Make in India and to revive folk art and artists. Each and every product @UrbanEthic is handmade, local and fabric used is pure Handloom khadi and silk." "Since my hobby became my profession so gardening became my new hobby from last few years. Crazy lover and collector of variety of plants." "Looking forward to work hand in hand with you all. Oh and it goes without saying that since I'm an artist...I'm definitely nocturnal"



**NAME : Sudha Murali**

**Role in WICCI : National Handloom Council Member**

Personal: Sixteen years of experience in IT. Started with Infosys, Mindtree, Flex and finally with Expeditors as Solutions Manager and Architect.

Exposure to Global Warehouses and Shop floors for HP, DELL, HTC, etc. Functional knowledge of Supply chain and Logistics

Current : Founder and Creative head of Mudhra Trends. Mudhra Trends, A women exclusive clothing store primarily focuses on promoting artisans and their work. We aim at making handloom more affordable and fashionable without compromising on our sustainable and ethical values. We strongly believe in slow fashion.

Bringing Magic from artisans hands to your hearts



**NAME : Vaishali Vaishnav**

**Role in WICCI : Council member National Handloom council**

**Gujurat state council President**

Profile : An entrepreneur with Brand India Ka Fashion, Vaishali Vaishnav strongly believes in promoting traditional craftsmanship and have always loved the vibrancy of Hand crafted and Hand woven. She started this venture to bring traditional textiles from across the nation under one roof. She is the Founder of the Community "Multitasking Mommies" which aims at empowering Women and Mothers in every way through its online and offline presence. She is an exponent of social media marketing and uses this platform not only to expand her own business but also to scaffold the business growth and expansion plans of fellow women entrepreneurs. She is a giver by values and enjoys boosting morals of fellow women entrepreneurs to excel and expand their business through online and offline referrals She shares her knowledge and experience on Social media marketing with youth as visiting faculty to premier institutes like Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India and several others. She is serving as Chairperson of All Ladies League Gujarat Chapter and has been appointed as the State President for Entrepreneurship Council if Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI) Since 2003 she was an integral part of Rotary International and has served as the District Rotaract Representative for the year 2007-08 of RI Dist. 3050 which covered Rotaract Clubs of Gujarat, Rajasthan and some parts of Madhya Pradesh. Under her leadership, the club undertook diversified projects of Community service involving Youth and citizens from different. In her words "Loving what you do and having fun while doing it is the best possible way to work and right now, i feel like i am in an adventure park enjoying the ride".



Name: **Indira R. Kalita**

Role in WICCI: **National Handloom Council Member**

I am Indira R. Kalita from Guwahati , Assam. I am presently holding the position of Secretary , Assam Public Service Commission and Additional Secretary to Government of Assam

I did my Master in Zoology from Gauhati University and joined in Assam Public Service in the year 1992 . Being a civil servant I got the opportunity to work in various sectors of Govt like Revenue , Handloom , Sericulture , Information Technology etc in last 27years . I have seen the hardship and struggle of rural people and their issues.

I had many opportunity to work under Digital India program for rural people .under Digital literacy programme got to work closely with rural people and could digitally literate them banking. Apart from my official work ...my passion for local handloom attires and got me involved with 2/ 3 handloom organisations and help in their growth and infrastructural development



Name: **Ishita Das**

### Role in WICCI: **National Handloom Council Member**

**Profile:** I am a fashion graduate from Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore. Interned as Fashion Stylist for Harper's Bazaar Bride. Have prior experience in graphic designing from Banyan Tree Resort & Matter Prints, Singapore. Project Manager & Digital Head for Wedding Asia. Later on founded a slow fashion & textile label- **The Silk Concept'**.

It is a socially innovative label where we create & innovate handwoven Khadi Eri Silk with other organic textiles products from Assam, North-East India, in order to revive weavers from that region.

We provide accessories & clothing pieces that are gender-neutral to evoke a sense of individuality; experimental, size-friendly & timeless. These pieces are kept minimal in terms of style & are perfect for all season & travel. It follows the principles of Slow design & Zero waste leaving no carbon footprint & positive impact to the environment.

Our vision is to preserve & innovate the heritage crafts of North-East India, where magic is woven delicately by artisanal hands creating a unique textile experience. We are on a serious mission to connect people, places & products. We strive to build a community where we uplift the artisans in a fair-trade manner. So that we can make the products desirable for the Global market.



grasshopper

Name: **Julie Kagti**

Role in **WICCI: National Handloom Council Member**

I have spent 30 odd years in the field of textiles as a designer working for the export sector in Bombay and at Himatsingka Seide, Bangalore. Then as a social entrepreneur working in the NGO sector and in my studio at Bangalore. I branched into retail with my own store to sell my products and those of designers and craft initiatives that shared the same values. I have taught at Shristi school of Art , Design and Technology.

I conduct about 6 adult weaving workshops year for adults and in 2017 started Curtain Call Adventures, a travel venture with focus to promote and sustain local tribal communities in the North east and conduct textile tours to tribal communities across the country.

Currently I am working on a project proposal to start an online museum cum interactive space for the back strap loom weavers of the Northeast.



**Name: Smt. Lalita Devi Jain**

**Role in WICCI: National Handloom Council Member**

Profile: Smt Lalita Devi Jain, fondly called as Madhu Jain is one of the leading woman entrepreneurs of North East region of India. She was born in the business family of Sri Tarachand Agarwal of Mankachar a Small town of Assam bordering Bangladesh & Meghalaya. After her graduation she got married to Sri Shanti Kumar Jain, a mechanical engineer by profession. Sri Jain himself a very humble person chose to stay with his wife at his adapted village Rajapara near his native place Palasbari, around 60km from Guwahati to earn their livelihood.

Weaving has been a way of life in Assam since time immemorial. Tradition has it that the skill to weave was the primary qualification of a young girl for eligibility for marriage. Smt. Lalita Devi Jain came up with a noble concept of providing the tribal people of Rajapara with some source of sustenance where by they can be self-sufficient and develop socio-economically. She identified the ethnic apparel worn by the woman folk of Assam commonly known as mekhala Chadar which is made up of Muga and silk variety produced in Assam. She realized the potential of the local woman weaver and thought to engage them to earn some livelihood to improve their living condition. She selected mostly widows, orphans, unemployed girls from the locality and trained them to create rich fabric made up of traditional Muga and silk.

It was a fusion of ethnic era with modern era. The market was astounded to see this skillful blend which enriched the quality of the fabric. It was indeed a bold step from a lady who

never had a formal training to create and design this unique blend in the traditional fabric. She started with five looms and over the period of last more than 35 years, she has built up 50 looms. Almost 200 women are employed and they all have become the part of the family to create the brand of Madhushree. At present the brand has its own production centre at Rajapara. Over the years reputation of Madhushree has reached far flung regions in the country and many central and state Ministers, bureaucrats and dignitaries have visited its production centre to get first hand experience of the product. Her work and talent has been appreciated and recognized at different forums and she has been honoured by several organizations for her achievements. She has been awarded National Award 2008 – Special Recognition award for outstanding performance by Govt of India, Ministry of MSME. FLO- the ladies wing of FICCI has felicitated her as one of the 25 women entrepreneurs in the country in 2009. She is the recipient of International Woman Entrepreneur Challenge Award hosted by Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, South Africa. In the Year of 2010. Nominations have been invited from her for the 10th edition of the Businessworld FICCI-SEDF Corporate social responsibility Award- 2009. MILLIONAIREASIA

Youth Entrepreneur Award By all India Purbottar Pradesiya Marwari Yuva Mancha, Jorhat In the Year of 2009. JCI Awarded her Jaycee Panchratna Purskar In the year 2017. Marwari Mahila samiti Guwahati Purbottar 'KARMA NISTH NARI SANMAN' In the year 2019.

Mrs Jain was felicitated by so many Local Organizations For her work to Uplift the economy of the Region





Name: **Dr Mamta B Sharma**

Role in **WICCI: National Handloom Council** Member

**Profile:** Born and brought up in Dibrugarh, Assam in the North Eastern part of India. Went to Little Flower School upto 10th standard and 11th to 12th standard in DHSK College in Dibrugarh, Assam. For Bsc (H Sc) I was in SSS College for Women in Anantapur Andhra Pradesh

During my school and college days played Basket ball and participated in athletics drama etc. I used to love designing, cutting and stitching since my school days & I always wanted to open a Handloom weaving and a garment unit. I excelled in my Msc Clothing & Textiles from Maharaja Sayaji Rao University, Baroda, Gujarat.

Thereafter I taught Clothing & Textiles in St Mary's College, Shillong for 4 years & I enjoyed interacting with my students. Later I joined Central Silk Board, MOT, GOI and worked in several places with the reelers/spinners, weavers, entrepreneurs, designers in the Silk Industry.

Diversification, quality upgradation and reaching the customers were some of the aspects interested me in this sector.

With the aim for improvement of quality I took up my Ph.D study on Muga silk of Assam. Right now I am involved in Silk Handloom and trying to promote those involved in this sector.



Name : **Sangeetha**

Role in **WICCI: National Handloom Council Member**

**Profile:** I am Sangeetha. I am into Graphic designing. Have 11 plus years of experience in the field. I have a branding company by name Think Smart Branding, which is 4 years old. I am a fun loving person and passionate about my profession and enjoy doing it. I was a home maker I was running a recording studio from 2012 to 2014, but couldn't continue due to personal reasons. Then onwards I am into graphic designing and branding. I have my own clientele, with whom I am working for almost 10 years.

I love listening to music and clicking pictures. Popularly known as Selfie Sangeetha in my circle. Recently changed to be a fitness freak. I was 86 kgs one year back and now I am 73kgs. Good in cooking but very less interest. Happy to be a part of this forum, I take it as an opportunity to know more people and learn new verticals.

I am an active member in Nandalala Seva Samithi Trust, a NGO in Mylapore. page



Name: **Dr. Shantana Saikia**

**Role in WICCI: National Handloom Council Member**

**Profile:** Dr. Shantana saikia was born in Jorhat, Assam and did her schooling from Delhi, Jorhat and higher education from Shillong, Meghalaya. She did her Masters in English literature and PhD in Folklore from Gauhati University. She is currently an Associate Professor and HoD in the Department of English at Bahona College, Jorhat, Assam. She is also a trainer with the former Capacity Building Program of Women Managers in Higher Education, Women Studies, New Delhi. She is involved with the state's teacher training programs and has developed text book materials for SCERT, Govt of Assam. She was also the guest faculty at Assam Women's University.

Dr.Saikia is also an author, translator and ethnographic researcher. Her interest in oral literature took her across Assam and in this context she came into contact with women weavers as she was collecting their narratives and work songs and came across the cultural significance of motifs woven and the materials which were interesting identity markers. She has worked towards organising these weavers and helped them build contacts and avail of schemes, to understand market dynamics etc. She also had helped set up backyard farms for college dropouts and unemployed youth in an attempt to foster self employment.

Dr. Saikia has presented and published papers on oral literature in India and abroad. She was at the University of Tartu at the invitation of the Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore, University of Tartu where she had lectured on Assamese folklore. in 2019. She is also a member of Board of Studies and Editorial Boards. of several institutions. Her latest translation, Hunger, an Assamese novel by the Sahitya Akademi Awardee, Dr. Dhrubajyoti Borah and published by Red River has received positive reviews from many renowned authors.



Name: **Shravanti Borah**

Role in WICCI: **National Handloom Council Member**

**Profile:** Entrepreneur, product designer, Proprietor and founder of Enajori. the heritage weaves and native silks of Assam.

Enajori.....reimagining the heritage weaves and native silks of Assam.

Enajori in Assamese literally means the thread of love which binds people and the culture together in a bond of love and friendship. Weaving comes naturally to the rural womenfolk of Assam, who is gifted with the artistry of weaving intricate and mesmerizing designs on her looms. Enajori was founded in 2016 to make an attempt to develop the inherent skills of the traditional weavers and showcase it on a global platform. In the process striving to provide them sustainable livelihood, foster economic development, improved living standards, cultural vitality and community well-being.



Name: **Vandana Saxena**

**Role in WICCI: National Handloom Council Member**

**Profile:** By discipline I am a Digital Content Specialist, HR Professional, and Soft Skills Trainer. By passion I am a writer.

In my professional career of 21 years in the domain of Human Resource Management and Administration, I have worked with industries like mechanical, telecom, retail, and Credit Management. I am presently associated with Unified Credit Solutions for the past 13 years as Head – Admin & HR. In addition, I am also associated with Henry Harvin Education as a Soft-Skills Trainer. I carry a rich experience of 10 years in Training the professionals while working in the various Corporates. Breaking the barriers, I rediscovered my passion for writing after working in the corporate world for 15 years. Until now, I have created numerous stories, articles, and a handful of poems.

I am presently a contributing author at Women's Web and a freelance blogger at Momspresso with more than 10 million views on my blog. In addition, I unleash my creative self on Penmancy and Asian Literary Society. You may read a few winning stories and poetry written by me here. Apart from these writing challenges I have also won

numerous awards for my contribution to the literary world. Take a look [here](#).

I share my learnings in the various training and workshops. Other than Corporates, these training sessions and workshops are highly useful for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Also, these workshops help women who choose to follow their passion and aspire to build their brand in the digital world. These workshops are tailor-made for women entrepreneurs, keeping in mind their specific niche and target audience. Check the snapshot of training events [here](#). You may also scroll through the reviews posted by happy participants who are



Name: **Varsha Savla**

Role in **WICCI: National Handloom Council Member**

**Profile:** I am passionate Designer & loving mom of 12 year kid. My journey of being fashion entrepreneur started 6 years ago. I finished my Collage from CVTI Mumbai and worked for export firms as head designer & production manager for 10 years. I shifted to my hometown - Pipariya and started UV Creations - A design studio which caters to personal styling needs.

In the process I saw that so much of fabric is being wasted and my love towards fabric inspired me to study sustainability. Our Idea was recognised by IIM banglore from 6000 ideas . This shaped Expressions by UV - a sustainable fashion brand! Our brand is inspired by Indian textile and craft heritage and advocates sustainable, ethical and fair trade fashion which empowers marginalized communities, weavers and artisans.



**NAME : Ketna Contractor**

**Role in WICCI : National Handloom Council Member**

Profile: Ms. Ketna Contractor is an entrepreneur who has established herself in multiple domains ranging from Art, Design and healthy living. She has studied Bachelor of Fine Arts from MS University Baroda and Master in Life Style Product Design from NID, Ahmedabad. She works with varied materials in her designs, few of her designs have won design awards of national repute. She beautifully blends art into design. She has also exhibited her artworks in different cities. Her art explores deeper aspects of our society and life. She started her own venture after an established career working as a designer in reputed companies like Nitco, Arttd'inox & Omax. These days she is working with traditional Indian crafts and artisans to develop eco-friendly products for domestic and international markets which are sold under her own brand. She is also a certified Yoga teacher trained at Krishnamacharya Foundation Chennai. She practices Yoga and help people on ways to healthy living.