



POONAM BINDAL

PRESIDENT, WEST BENGAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNCIL

**WOMEN'S INDIAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (WICCI)**

INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL BUSINESS CHAMBER FOR WOMEN

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Poonam Bindal is representing world's second largest company for circular knitting machines PAILUNG.

She is member of WBHA (West Bengal Hosiery Association) & BHMA (Bengal Hosiery Manufactures Association).

She has also been attending ITMA (International Textile & Machinery Exhibition) regularly for the past decade, in order to be upgraded on latest technologies.

Poonam has diversified into distribution channels of FMCG and is successfully associated with the Modi Group of Industries for the last 24 years.

She is presently residing with her mother and is managing home & business single handedly.

Poonam's recreational activities include book reading, solving crosswords & watching light movies.

She places immense faith in God and believes that the Universe is playing an important part in her life in bringing peace and happiness.



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VICE PRESIDENT

MEENAKSHI GUPTA

Council Members:

- ALKA SARAF
- ANUSHKA GUPTA
- PRACHI KANODIA
- POONAM AGARWAL
- SARIKA GARODIA
- SUNITA ARORA
- RENU MAHESHWARI
- MINNIE SENGUPTA
- AYESHA MAZUMDER
- SWATI KHANNA
- SARITA MOHTA

Meenakshi Gupta
Vice President
WB Entrepreneurship
Council

A dedicated and compassionate entrepreneur contributing to the fashion community and specialising in styling and dressing women under the Brand “FADKA BY MEENAKSHI”.

Born in Faizabad and brought up in Lucknow and Kolkata, my childhood was a mix of two entirely different cultures. I have done my schooling from Ashok Hall School, Kolkata always inclined towards academics and extra-curriculars like classical singing. I developed my love for fabrics and designing while graduating from J.D Birla College in Home Science Honours.

My interests include writing poetry and listening to music. I also take keen interest in understanding and mastering the latest technology.

I started my entrepreneurial journey as a Multimedia Computer Centre owner but my creative inclination led me to launch my own brand for women designer traditional wear. I started with only 15 sarees in my daughter’s room and 17 years later now I have a display store in Park Street and fully functioning workshop with a work force of 25.

As an entrepreneur I have always believed in empowering women to be financially independent. I have been providing a job for about 90 to 100 women in rural Kolkata for hand work on fabrics and stitching. My store and workshop both also have a maximum of women employees working and providing for their families.

To conclude, I believe in moving forward with time and embrace every change that comes my way.



**ALKA SARAF
COUNCIL MEMBER**

I, Alka Saraf am very happy to say that I am a strong, positive and creative person. According to me learning has no age and we should always be open to new ideas and be in search of knowledge at every phase of life.

I was married in a joint family 40 years ago and was a home maker till my two daughters grew old enough. This free time pushed me to start my own business in real diamonds and gold. Designing and smart selling was my passion and I gave it my best which made my business flourish even in all odds. I am a self-motivator and like to innovate. This led to the birth of “Svaraj” my new pret collection of handcrafted ‘Swarovski CZ’ from Australia, made in sterling silver. Alongside I also believe in extending a hand towards the less privileged of the society. Being a member of All Ladies League and few other social organisations, I am involved in various social activities and charity events.

My biggest treasure and strength in life is my family and friends who stand by my side.

A compassionate and a leader in the making, I am an entrepreneur working under the mentorship of my mother Meenakshi Gupta running the 17-year-old fashion institution Fadka By Meenakshi Gupta.

Born and brought up in Kolkata, I have always embraced the culture of this city. I have done my schooling from Sushila Birla Girls' School and have also studied for a period of three years in Jain International Residential School, Bangalore. Hostel life taught me how to be independent and confident at an early stage in life. Being a graduate in BBA from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata also instilled the entrepreneurship skills in me. In order to keep up with the marketing trends, I have also done a Certification course in Digital Marketing from UpGrad which has now given me the skills to freelance as a marketer and also handle the social media page of my own brand.

I take a keen interest in reading about different perspectives of our Hindu Epic Mahabharata and also have a hobby in swimming and dancing. Apart from this I also chair the position of the Lead Visitor Host in BNI, a business networking platform in Kolkata.

I started out as a marketing executive in Srei International and moved onto handling and running our business. I look forward to take Fadka to newer heights and make it one of the prominent brands in India.

ANUSHKA GUPTA
COUNCIL MEMBER



**AYESHA MAZUMDER
COUNCIL MEMBER**

Born in London, UK, on 15 December, 1964. Schooled at Loreto House, Kolkata till Class 12. Graduated with Honors in Political Science from Lady Brabourne College, under Calcutta University.

Holding IBM Diploma in Advanced Computer Applications & Diploma in Interior Designing from YWCA. Currently Company Director, Everest Agro-Industries [P] Ltd.

Other activities: Lifestyle Consultant, Spoken English & Etiquette Trainer, Editor and Publisher. I enjoy Social Work, Graphics-creation for events, Anchoring, Gourmet Cookery, Study of Ancient Texts & World Religions.

Member of The Saturday Club Ltd, Rotary Club of Calcutta, Indian Chamber of Commerce: Women Empowerment Division, National Indian Association of Women [Committee member], Bengal Initiative [an international think tank est. 1905].

I hail from one of the founding families of Kolkata, the Gooptu family. My ancestors were doctors, industrialists and businessmen of renown in India. My ancestor Dr D Gooptu was one of the first 4 graduates of Calcutta Medical College. My great-grandfather, Rai Bahadur F N Gooptu, was a Swadeshi industrialist. My grandfather R P Gooptu was a pioneer in film making. My father, Amiya Gooptu was a national and international social and industrial visionary. I picked up most of my skills from him.



**MAADHU N PANDEY
COUNCIL MEMBER**

Maadhu N Pandey is a senior Marketing, Branding, Advertising, Event Management professional with over 20 years of diverse experience across agencies and the Corporate sector.

For over a decade, she has grown and nurtured her entrepreneurial venture, *Goodshine Concept Creation*, which is a leading all-encompassing total media solutions service company, focused on delivering dynamic, innovative, personalized solutions, exceptional service and unparalleled results to clients. Their services span across India and in geographies beyond. She has also successfully created her premium and niche brand, *“Tssifra Weddings & Luxury Events”*, to cater to clients for luxury weddings and events, working closely with partners across India, Italy and Spain.

Spearheading a dynamic team of extremely high caliber professionals, Maadhu is highly regarded for her focus on the client's needs, creating solutions and executing best-in-class events. Catering to clients, both Corporate and Individuals, she is driven to innovate and push the boundaries to deliver exceptional client experiences, combining creativity with the deft to manage every intricate detail. Client centric, collaborative and with a proven track record, she brings along excellent stakeholder management skills, operating among the most challenging complexities.



**MINNIE SENGUPTA
COUNCIL MEMBER**

I am Minnie Sengupta, an alumna of institutions such as Queen of the Missions School, Modern High School and J.D. Birla Institute.

I completed my graduation, BSc Honours, from J.D. Birla Institute which is affiliated to Jadavpur University and went on to do my B.Ed from the same institution. I acquired a Masters degree in Political Science some years later.

I have been an educator since I completed my B. Ed in 1984. I took up my first assignment as a teacher of Nutrition in Classes XI and XII at J.D. Birla Institute. In 1994 Sushila Birla Girls' School was founded. I was one of the founding teachers and played a major role in the setting up of the school. In 1996 I was given the responsibility of a Coordinator. In 2004, I was assigned the role of Headmistress at Sushila Birla Girls' School. In 2019 I took over as Principal at Birla High School Mukundapur, a coeducational institution that was founded in 2018.

I am extremely passionate about facilitating children's education and enjoy working with children of all age groups. I am also very proud of the fact that I have been associated with the S.K. Birla group of institutions for the past forty years, as a student first, and then as a faculty member.

I believe very strongly that a nation is only as good as its Education System. The term 'teacher' should be re coined. We should refer to educators as 'facilitators'. The role any school should play is to help children learn – 'how to learn'. Apart from academics, schools and educators have a huge role to play in shaping the character and influencing the value system the student.



**POONAM AGARWAL
COUNCIL MEMBER**

Msc - Gold medelst from Magadh University
1992- Best Leo girls charter President
Since 2000 - Running Forex & tour operator
2004- Charter president of Lions club of Flower Vally
2018 - secretary of Kolkata Marwari Mahila samity
2020- President of Kolkata Marwari Mahila samity



**PRACHI KANODIA
COUNCIL MEMBER**

God made night shorter than day, so that we have more time to chase our dream than dream them- That's my mantra because of which I am what I am.

Born and brought up in Kolkata, a commerce Graduate. Keen interest in theatre took me to Padatik. Believed that art can be revived through theatre. So, under my production with Padatik Cultural Center Nautanki was revived by Amit Dixit from Lucknow and Ram Kishore Pauchuri from Mathura. And worked with eminent theatre personalities from National School of Drama.

I wrote and produced a short film to show my stand against the rape culture by increasing awareness the best way I could.

Last year I produced Kia and Cosmos which was screened at Cannes film Festival and other international film festivals.

Being creative, compassionate and focused I intend to work for the growth of youth through art and develop the society to leave a mark.



RENU MAHESHWARI
COUNCIL MEMBER

She is a [B.SC](#) (Home Science) Hons. Graduate from Jadavpur University well versed in handicrafts and dietary courses. She is also an accomplished classical singer from Bhatkhande Music Institute, a Deemed University. She has given several performances on invitation in various cities to large audiences.

She looks after the real estate portfolio of the family business having investments all over the country.

She is attached with the Disha Foundation, a well-known NGO and devotes her time once a week sharing music with the children.

She is passionate about art...in any form...be it painting, singing, bonsai, and the list is ever expanding. She has a keen eye for art and helps upcoming artists gain recognition by organising exhibitions to showcase their work. She has mentored and watched many artists rise to international fame.

She is an avid reader and travels widely.

She is spiritual and believes in action and compassion along with the power of prayer.

My name is Sarika Garodia. I am 47 years old married to an Advocate and have 2 sons who are a handful thus ensuring that I become adept at handling things with flair.

I was born and brought up in Bhubaneswar where I did my graduation, fashion designing and a DTP course in computers. I love reading and solving crosswords, puzzles and Sudoku.

Started painting at a young age, left in between but have picked up since last 4 years. Have started selling my paintings on personal basis, which gives me immense joy and confidence. I do all kind of mediums and since I have a keen sense of colour and beauty, the paintings have a personal touch.

I want to grow my knowledge for gardening and since I have a soft corner for animals ,I want to do something for them too.

**SARIKA GARODIA
COUNCIL MEMBER**

**SARITA MOHTA
COUNCIL MEMBER**

A daughter since birth, a wife for 15 years, a mother for 13 years, a visionary in one of India's leading insurance broking firms, Ideal Insurance Brokers and a proud BNI member for 1 year, my name is Sarita Mohta. With a background in commerce, I have done my schooling from Ashoka Hall, graduation from Bhawanipore Gujarati Education Society and post-graduation from 1st computers. As they say, responsibility is a burden when you are obliged to do it, it is a joy when you enjoy doing it. Like most women have a family and job to manage, I too have the same responsibilities, but my way of leading life is different. Every morning I wake up with the same enthusiasm and vigor to fulfill my joys and sleep end of the day with a heart full of gratitude. At Ideal Insurance, I am in charge of business expansion on a PAN India basis and represent the company in the General Insurance Category in BNI Ideal. My moto being of empowering every woman, I would be privileged to be a part of this organization!



**SUNITA ARORA
COUNCIL MEMBER**

A student of Our Lady Queen of Missions who graduated from Rani Birla College with Political Science.

She has a Masters Degree in English and is a Bachelor of Education from IGNOU.

She has over 24 years of valuable experience in the field of education as a teacher, co ordinator and headmistress of renowned schools . While she has been a passionate and caring teacher, as an administrator she has been firmly result-oriented with a steady vision.

Her rich exposure to CBSE curriculum has empowered her with a diverse and innovative approach as an academic leader. Within the very short period of her leadership at DPS Howrah, she has very efficiently and effectively spearheaded the school during the CBSE Affiliation process which gave the school a new identity in the Howrah region.

She was one amongst the team of delegates who visited **the Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China** to promote collaboration in education between the two countries and share unique, quality resources and experiences.

She has been entrusted the post of **Vice President of the Bharat Scouts & Guides** wing in the Howrah District.



**SWATI KHANNA
COUNCIL MEMBER**

My name is Swati Khanna.

I am a practicing Chartered Accountant and a DISA qualified and B. Com(hons).

I have been practising in my firm Swati Khanna & Associates since 2012, specialising in income tax, audit and company law.

I am happily married with an 18-month-old son.

Being a working woman and a homemaker, I look up to all such women for inspiration as I know the ordeals of such situations and how tough it is for a woman to juggle between both the responsibilities.

Looking forward to meeting more such inspiring women in the WICCI and associating with them!!!