

Tussar Silk Dress Material

Background:

Tussar is a variety of wild silk, popularly known as Vanya Silk. The unique feature of Tussar Silk product lies in its unique texture and unevenness. Bilaspur, Champa and Raigarh districts of Chhattisgarh are known for Tussar silk weaving which is being practised in this area for more than 100 years. Tussar silk is generated by the silkworm *Antheraea Mylitta* which mainly thrives on the food plants Asan and Arjun. Weavers of these areas have been producing Tussar silk saris, Dress material, Stoles, Scarf etc. with small butti designs in Jala and Patiya technique. Ruiphool, Machhi-kacho or Fish-Turtle are the traditional motifs mainly used. Small geometrical designs are also used for butti design.

Material used:

Traditionally, Tussar silk fabrics are woven using domestic reeled Tussar silk yarn (Kosa) both in warp and weft, but recently warp is replaced by other varieties of imported Tussar. However, in weft, desi Tussar 50/70 D hand reeled and machine reeled yarns still in fashion due to its unique texture. Sometimes, cotton and spun silk yarns are also being used for ornamentation and extra wefted design.

Technique applied:

Tussar silk, traditionally, is hand reeled yarn produced by the women member of weaver's family. This technique of producing yarn rarely seems in practice in other silk producing areas. Generally, Pit loom is used for weaving with Jala and Patiya technique for making small butti design.

How to Distinguish:

- Generally hand reeled Tussar (Kosa) is used in natural state in weft.
- Rough, coarse texture and weft bars are visible due to unevenness of the yarn.
- Color varies from yellowish beige to brown in natural state.
- Causes creases/wrinkle easily, especially with water.
- Creates rustling sound when rubbed together.

