

Pochampally Ikats

Back ground:

Pochampally is a well known Cotton and Silk Ikat weaving centre in Telagana State, located just 50 km from Hyderabad. The colours of Pochampalli Ikat fabrics are mesmerizing and even more astonishing is the simple method they use to produce bold geometrical designs of flowers, birds and animal pattern. The technique of Ikat weaving, which requires true precision and skill, is believed to be brought in the town of Pochampally from Chirala where it is locally called as chit-ku. Characterized by their bold, geometrical motifs, in red, black and white, they were used in as loincloths, lungis or turbans. In the 1930's they were exported in large numbers to Burma, the middle east and East Africa where they were known as Asia Rumals . In the 60's, weavers of Pochampalli started weaving sarees initially on cotton and then silk was introduced.

Material used:

The materials used for their weaving are different counts of twisted cotton yarns, silk yarns and zari depending upon the quality of the fabric.

Technique applied:

Ikat is a weaving style that employs resist dyeing technique to impart colors to the yarns before their interlacement. The fabric woven in this technique shows a feathered and hazy pattern which is a wonderful classic in its own way. This is universal style of producing fabric patterns and exists in various countries for years. When only warps are resist dyed, the Ikat is called Warp Ikat, and when only wefts are resist dyed, it is called Weft Ikat. When both warps and wefts are resist dyed to create woven patterns, the Ikat is called Double Ikat. Along with the traditional parrot, elephant, diamond and flower motifs, the ikat saree designers these days are developing new and modern designs to go with the current trends of the market.

How to distinguish genuine Pochampally Saree:

- It is perfectly reversible cloth with same appearance of the design on both sides.
- Intensity of the colours in the design also appears same on both sides of the fabric, whereas if the fabric is printed, then colours in the back side of the fabric will be lighter.
- Contours of the designs are always hazy.



