

## Tanchoi Saree

### **Background:**

Banaras weaves are synonymous with rich, heavily patterned, mostly silk with gold or silver zari threads ornamented fabric. Tanchoi Silk was said to have been brought to India through Chinese traders in 19<sup>th</sup> century which was later adapted by Indian weavers. Very intricate designs in multi-colour are interwoven in satin weave. The specialty of this saree lies in its smooth texture. Silk is used both in warp and weft. Intricate and small weaving patterns are commonly used with flowers, small birds in flight, peacocks and parrot motifs.

### **Material used:**

The material used for weaving of “Tanchoi Saree / Dress material” is twisted two fold mulberry silk yarn, locally called “Katan” in both warp and weft. Tanchoi is one of the weaving techniques involving single colour warp and up to five colours in weft.

### **Techniques applied:**

Tanchoi fabrics are woven on conventional Banarasi handloom with the attachment of jacquard and sometimes with jala, pagina & naka. Normally five and satin weave is used for ground fabric with the arrangement held shafts and designs are formed by using differently coloured weft threads grouped together as a single pick. The density of warp is very high and the feel of the fabric is smooth because of satin weave.

### **How to distinguish Tanchoi Saree:**

- Feel of the fabric is very smooth.
- Base fabric weave is satin.
- Density of warp is very high compared to weft.
- No floats are visible in back side of the fabric which is flat in appearance.
- Back side appear as a shadow of designs of the face side.

