

Gold hallmarking

May 4, 2022

In news—The Centre has announced that the second phase of mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts will come into effect from June 1 as per Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts (Amendment) Order, 2022 that has been notified recently.

Key updates-

- Nearly 32 new districts will come under the mandatory hallmarking regime from June 1 where Assaying and Hallmarking Centres have been set up, post the implementation of the first mandatory hallmarking order.
- In addition, in the second phase, additional caratages of gold jewellery and artefacts of 20 carats, 23 carats and 24 carats will also be covered under it.
- Effective June 23, 2021, BIS implemented a mandatory hallmarking regime in 256 districts.
- Consumers can also get the purity of their unhallmarked gold jewellery tested at any of the BIS-recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centres (AHC) with minimal charges.

What is hallmarking of good jewellery?

- **The Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS), which operates the gold and silver hallmarking scheme in India, defines hallmarking as the** “accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal in precious metal articles.”
- So, it is a **“guarantee of purity or fineness”** of precious metal articles.
- In India, at present two precious metals namely **gold and silver have been brought under the purview of Hallmarking.**

- Hallmarking signs have been revised effective from July 1, 2021.
- Three symbols of hallmarking have been introduced instead of four earlier.
- **The new symbols of hallmarking are –**
 - BIS hallmark logo.
 - Purity/fineness grade (for example 22K916 for 22 carat gold) and
 - 6-digit alphanumeric code.

Exemption from Hallmarking-

However, as per the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), there are certain types of gold jewellery that are exempted from hallmarking. These include:

- A gold article with weight less than two grams.
- Any article of gold thread.
- Special categories of jewellery – Kundan, Polki and Jadaau.
- Gold watch and fountain pen.
- Gold bullion in any shape of bar, plate, sheet, foil, rod, wire, strip, tube or coin.
- Any article which is intended to be used for medical, dental, veterinary, scientific or industrial purposes.
- Jewellery for international exhibitions.
- Gold jewellers having annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh per annum.
- Any article meant for export, which conforms to any specification required by foreign buyer.
- Jewellery for domestic Business-to-Business exhibitions, approved by Government agency.
- Export and re-import of jewellery as per Trade policy of Government of India.
- Any manufactured article which is not substantially complete and which is intended for further manufacture.
- An article which is in course of consignment from

outside to India to an assaying and hallmarking centre
in India.