

# Hallmarking of gold

June 17, 2021

## In news

Recently, the Union government announced that it has made hallmarking of gold mandatory.

## Key updates

- The government has announced the phased implementation of mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery with effect from June 16.
- In the first phase, gold hallmarking will be available only in 256 districts of the country which have Assaying marking centres.
- Gold of Additional carats 20, 23 and 24 will also be allowed for Hallmarking.
- However, Jewellers can continue to buy back old gold jewellery without a hallmark from consumers.
- In order to give adequate time to the manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of Gold Jewellery, there would be No penalties till August end.
- Old jewellery can be hallmarked as it is, if feasible by the jeweller or after melting and making new jewellery.

## Few exemptions

Following will be exempted from mandatory hallmarking

- Jewellers with annual turnover upto Rs. 40 lakh.
- Export and re-import of jewelry as per Trade Policy of Government of India
- Jewellery for international exhibitions, jewellery for government approved B2B domestic exhibitions.
- Watches, fountain pens and special types of jewellery viz. Kundan, Polki and Jadau

## Hallmarking scheme of BIS

- Under the Hallmarking scheme of Bureau of Indian Standards, Jewellers are registered for selling hallmarked jewellery and recognise testing and Hallmarking centres.
- BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations, were implemented w.e.f. 14.06.2018.
- At present, only 30% of Indian Gold Jewellery is hallmarked.

### **Metals covered hallmarking in India**

The government, through a notification issued on June 14, 2018, notified two categories gold jewellery and gold artefacts; and silver jewellery and silver artefacts under the purview of hallmarking. So, hallmarking in India is available for jewellery of only two metals gold and silver.

### **What is hallmarking of gold?**

According to BIS, hallmarking is 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.

### **Why is Hallmarking required & important?**

- Hallmarking will enable Consumers/Jewellery buyers to make a right choice and save them from any unnecessary confusion while buying gold.
- The Hallmarking of jewellery/artefacts is required to enhance the credibility of gold Jewelry and Customer satisfaction through third party assurance for the marked purity/fineness of gold , consumer protection.
- This step will also help to develop India as a leading gold market center in the World.