



Mandatory Gold Hallmarking Norms in India

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Why in News

The Department of Consumer Affairs will release the notification regarding **mandatory hallmarking of Gold jewellery & artefacts** in India.

Earlier, it was **optional** for the jewellers and thus only **40%** of gold jewellery was getting hallmarked. Gold Hallmarking is a **purity certification** which started in **2000**.

Key Points

- The notification will make hallmarking of gold jewellery **mandatory from January 15, 2021**.
- The jewellers have been given **one year time to register** with the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** and clear their stocks if not hallmarked yet.
- Hallmarked gold jewellery will be only in **three grades – 14-carat, 18-carat and 22-carat** instead of current availability of ten grades.
- It will contain **four marks**: BIS mark, purity in carat, assay centre's name and jewellers' identification mark.
- The **rule is applicable only on sales by retailers and not to consumers**.
- However, it is **available for consumers who want to get their old jewellery hallmarked**.
- Anybody found violating the provision, will have to pay a **minimum fine of Rs 1 lakh or 5 times the price of the article**.
- The government had informed about these hallmarking norms to the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)**, which will help exporters get to know the changes in advance in importing country like India.

India is the **world's largest importer of gold**, with annual imports of 700-800 tonne.

Reasons for Gold Hallmarking

- The mandatory hallmarking will protect the public against lower caratage and ensure consumers do not get cheated while buying gold ornaments.
- It will also help to get the purity as marked on the ornaments.
- It will bring in transparency and assure the consumers of quality.
- The new system will weed out anomalies and corruption in the system of manufacturing of jewellery.

Source:TH