# **Regulatory changes in the Indian Gold Market**

Presentation by Somasundaram PR, Managing Director, India

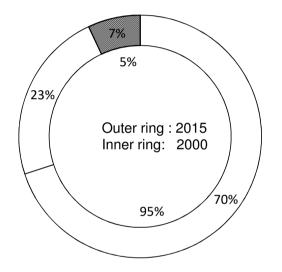
11<sup>th</sup> June 2019



# 2<sup>nd</sup> largest gold consuming market ..but facing challenges

- 90% of gold imported CAD impact continue to pose a risk to policy
- Unorganised and fragmented industry -barriers to innovation, value addition and skill development
- Gold policies and regulations distributed without a central body
- Legacies : grey market and tool for tax evasion
- Lack of standards and enforcement affecting integrity
- Lack of price transparency, fair and effective trading market
- Industry transition to align with broader economic reforms
  - Transparency
  - Tax compliance
  - Financial inclusion
  - Digitalisation forcing transformation

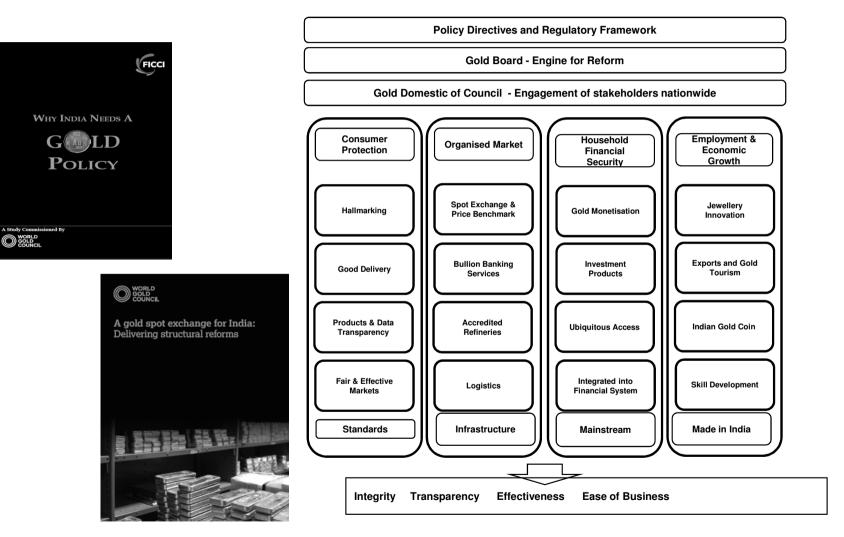
# Jewellery market landscape in India



Stand alone jewellers & medium sized retailers Regional chains National chains Source: Metals Focus; World Gold Council

# Our Policy Recommendations

#### Gold a mainstream asset class



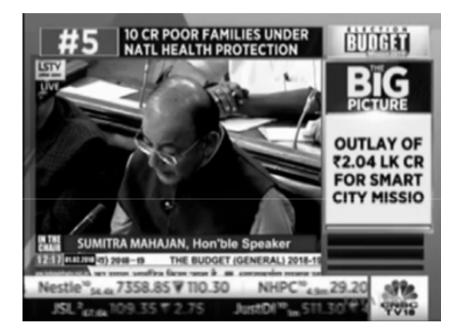
# Policy / Regulatory changes since 2015

- 80:20 rule revoked but high taxes remain
- Launch of Indian Gold Coin, Gold Monetisation scheme and Sovereign Gold bond with interest
- Introduction of excise duty at jeweler level in 2016 to establish transaction traceabilty
- Tax number for purchases above USD 3K in 2016
- Demonetisation of high value currencies in 2016
- Roll out of a national Goods and Services Tax to replace 17 types of taxes across 29 states and 7 Union territories. Special rate for gold, though.
- AML guidelines for jewelry purchases
- Draft India good delivery standards
- Hallmarking restricted to 3 categories 14,18 and 22 K



# .. topped by 3 key announcements in 2018

- The government will formulate a comprehensive Gold Policy to develop gold as an asset class.
- The government will also establish a system of consumer friendly and trade efficient system of regulated gold exchanges in the country.
- Gold Monetization Scheme will be revamped to enable people to open a hassle-free Gold Deposit Account.



## Government think tank report on gold

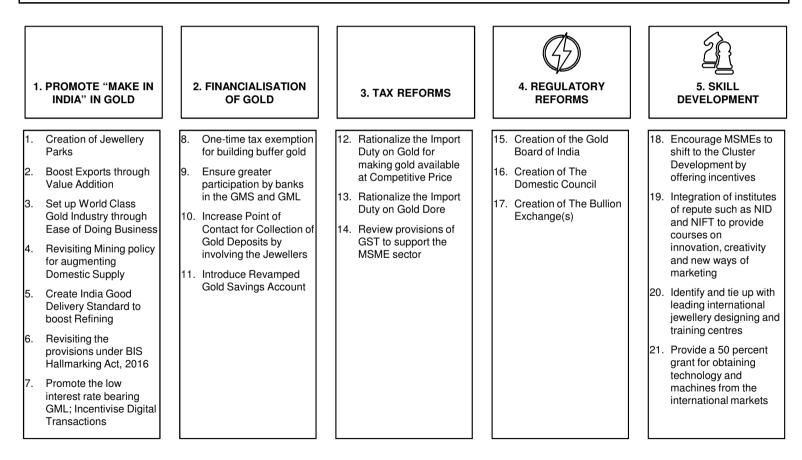
Final NITI Aayog recommendations **published** Government to push ahead with reforms



February 2018 Released in August 2018

# **Recommendations in the NITI Aayog report**

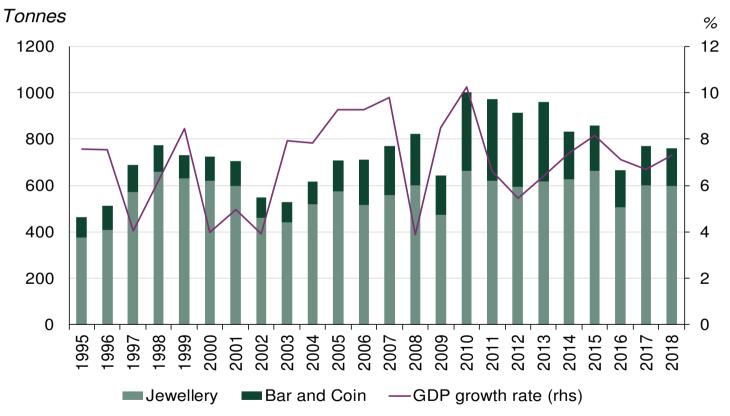
The recommendations cover the entire spectrum of changes required in gold policy for Transforming the Indian Gold Market



# Demand facing transitional challenges as transparency measures take effect

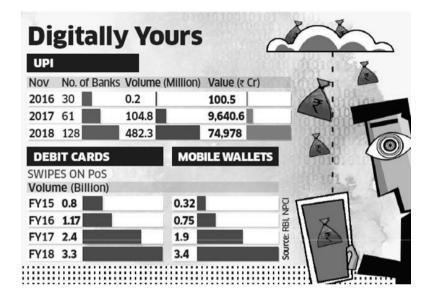
A buoyant economy and focus on rural incomes sustain India's gold affinity supported by socio-cultural factors

Indian gold demand and GDP growth rate

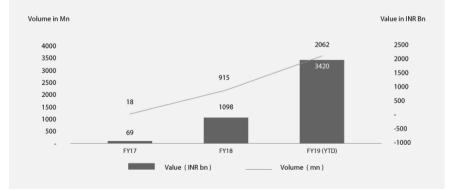


Source: Metals Focus; Refinitiv Eikon; IMF; World Gold CouncilL

## Digital transactions are growing phenomenally post demonetisation



In 2017-18, after the adoption of Unified Payment Interface by private players like Phonepe, Google, Paytm and others, the total number of transactions skyrocketed by more than 5,000 percent.



UPI payments: values and volumes

## Digital platforms emerging as a strong influencer of gold demand



# Now, PhonePe joins hands with SafeGold for digital gold product

By Pratik Bhakta, ET Bureau | Dec 13, 2017, 12.33 AM IST





Company will allow consumers to buy 24-karat gold worth any amount. The price will be linked to that in the bullion market.



Ecommerce major Flipkart's digital payments arm, Phone-Pe, has launched a digital gold product in partnership with SafeGold.

Paytm, the country's largest digital payments company, already offers a similar product.

As the battle in the digital payments space heats up, companies are not restricting themselves to cash-back schemes and incentives, but are also making other attractive offers like this savings product to entice users.

"We are focused on creating multiple use cases for consumers. We did credit card payments on PhonePe app and now digital gold is an addition in that direction," said Hemant Gala, head of banking relations and strategic partnerships at PhonePe.

## Digital gold platforms growing exponentially

# India's 1<sup>st</sup> Assay Training Institute launched in November 2018

A unique initiative supported by the industry bodies even as mandatory hallmarking is debated

### **Industry Partners**

- Indian Bullion and Jewellery Association
- Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council
- Bullion Federation of India
- Gems & Jewellery Council
- Indian Association of Hallmarking Centres
- Association of Gold Refiners and Mints



Precious Metals Assay and Training Institute

### Assay Technology Syllabus Partners

- Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT, Bombay)
- College of Engineering, Pune (COEP)

# Looking ahead – leveraging the trust in gold

## Policy

- A comprehensive gold policy and a central body for policy coordination to make gold an asset class
- Favorable taxes and ease of business but underpinned by transparency
- New gold based financial products in the mainstream

## Standards

- India Good Delivery Standards
- Mandatory Hallmarking and integrity of gold
- Responsible sourcing framework

## Infrastructure

- Trading infrastructure with India Gold Spot Exchange and domestic bullion banking.
- Digital gold eco-system to improve access to gold for micro savers and value added features for others.
- Skill development and innovation.
- Significantly developed refining and recycling market.

# Thank you

## World Gold Council

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