

JUST IN Selling gold to raise cash? Know how to sell and the tax implications

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Web Exclusive Selling gold to raise cash? Know how to sell and the tax implications

Ideally you should sell it to the jeweller you bought the gold from, or a reputable retailer to get a better rate

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Bindisha Sarang | Mumbai
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Gold prices, which are hitting historic highs, have come as a blessing for those who have substantial holdings, but not enough cash. The price of 24-carat gold, for

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instance, was Rs 52,315 in Mumbai on July 23. If you are looking to meet liquidity by selling gold, you need to know a few things, like how to sell your holding and the tax implications. Naveen Wadhwa, DGM, Taxmann says, "Gold is always treated specially by the I-T Act. As a general rule, any profit arising from the sale of personal effects is not chargeable to capital gains tax, but gold is an exception."

Taxation: Vivek Jalan, Partner at Tax Connect Advisory services LLP says, "There is no tax in case anyone inherits gold or receives it as a gift from blood relatives, but when you sell it, you are liable to pay capital gains tax in case you make a profit." For gold held for less than three years, you will have to pay short-term capital gains (STCG) tax, wherein the entire gain is added to your income and taxed as per your slab. For gold held for more than three years, the long-term capital gains (LTCG) will be taxed at 20 per cent after indexation.

Physical gold: To calculate capital gains, you need to determine the cost of acquisition. In case of inherited

gold, Archit Gupta, CEO, Cleartax says, "The cost of acquisition for the seller is the same cost at which the original owner acquired it." But what if this cost is unavailable due to lack of bills? Gupta says, "If that cost is not available, the Fair Market Value (FMV) should be determined as on the date of acquisition by the original owner or FMV as on April 1 2001, whichever is later. FMV can be determined by referring to a registered valuer. The period of holding for calculating long-term or short-term shall include the time period for which the original owner held it." In case the gold you want to sell was gifted to you, then the cost of acquisition is determined as the receipts from the person who made the gift. If a receipt is available, there is no difficulty.

The rest of the treatment for determining cost and holding period is the same as above.


Tax treatment of non-physical gold: The tax treatment of gold mutual funds, digital Gold and gold ETFs at the time of redemption is the same as selling physical gold or jewellery. For Sovereign gold bonds, it is a little different as these bonds earn Interest in the interim invested period also. Jalan says, "Interest from these bonds is taxable under the head 'Income from other sources' and taxed at the slab rates applicable. But no TDS/TCS is levied on interest income. Therefore, one has to remember to offer this income for taxation when one files his income tax return." If any capital gains arise at the time of maturity after eight years, then those will be exempted from tax. However, if capital gains arise in case of exit or transfer during the interim period, they will be taxed as STCG at slab rates if sold within 36 months or at 10 per cent (without indexation) or 20 per cent after indexation as per the option availed, if sold after 36 months.

Should you sell or take a gold loan? It will depend on the type of gold. Sameer Kaul, MD & CEO, TrustPlutus Wealth Managers (India) says, "If you have gold ETFs and they have made a reasonable profit, it makes sense to sell it, instead of taking a loan against them." Yet at the same time, when it comes to physical gold, taking a loan is a better option now, as you will get a high amount, at a reasonable rate.

How to sell physical gold: Ideally you should sell it to the same jeweller you bought the Gold from. Even if you don't have a receipt, he will have a record of sale at his end. Many jewellers will insist on seeing the original bill of purchase (to avoid the risk of buying stolen gold). Some jewellery stores and businesses may buy gold from you at a lower rate, though.

Top gold loan players: Rates & charges				
Lender	Interest Rate	Processing Fee	Loan Amount (Rs)	Loan Tenure
State Bank of India	7-7.5%	0.50%	20,000-20 lakh	Up to 3 years

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South Indian Bank	8.85-9.35%	For Gold Power/Power Re-pledge/NEO Schemes: 0.10%	5,000-25 crore	Up to 3 years
Manappuram Finance Ltd	12-29%	Rs 10 (at the time of settlement)	1,000-1.5 crore	Up to 365 days
Muthoot Fincorp	12% onwards	Rs 12 to 3,600	5,000 onwards	Up to 3 years
Muthoot Finance	Up to 27%	Up to 1%	1,500 onwards	Up to 3 years

Data as on July 23, 2020; Source: Paisabazaar

Income earned from gold shall be reported in Income-tax Return (ITR) as follows:

Income	Taxability	Reporting in ITR
From investment in physical gold	Taxable as capital gains	Under Schedule CG in ITR 2 or ITR 3
From investment in Gold ETFs	Taxable as capital gains	Under Schedule CG in ITR 2 or ITR 3
Interest on deposit under Gold Monetisation Scheme 2015	Exempt from income-tax	Report as exempt income in return filed in ITR 1 to 4
Capital gain arising from redemption of deposit under Gold Monetisation Scheme-2015	Not taxable	Not required to be reported in ITR
Capital gain arising to an individual on redemption of Sovereign Gold Bond	Not taxable as not covered under the definition of transfer	Not required to be reported in ITR

Source: Taxmann

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