Market Analysis - India's Gold Economy

Potential Impact: If just 10% of Indian gold is digitized, it could unlock \$150 billion in financial liquidity.

Gold Loan Market: Estimated to reach \$100 billion by 2025 with increasing formalization.

Price Trends: The yellow metal for April delivery jumped Rs 1,127 or 1.37 per cent to hit a record high of Rs 83,360 per 10 grams when Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2025-26 on Saturday.

Significance as a Financial Asset



- ₹126 lakh crore household gold value (25,000 tonnes)
- Cultural drivers: 50-55% demand from weddings, 40-60 tonnes sold during Diwali/Akshaya Tritiya
- Role in Central Bank Reserves: RBI and other banks hold gold for economic stability

Regional Demand



- South India (40%): 22-carat dominance (Chennai, Hyderabad)
- North India (20%): Kundan/Jadau designs; Polki jewellery preference
- West India (25%): Mixed caratage (Mumbai, Ahmedabad)
- East India (15%): Emerging demand (Kolkata)

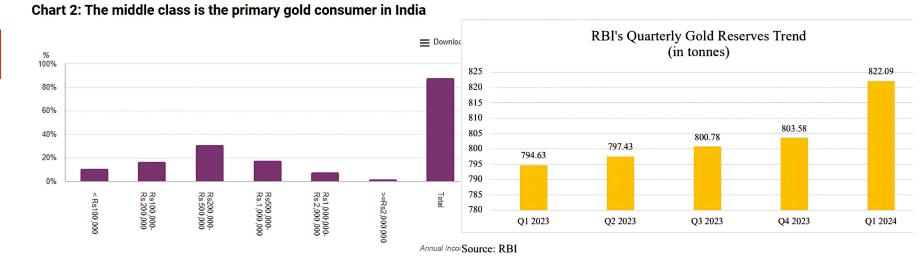
Total Addressable Market (TAM): \$1.5 Trillion in gold holdings

RURAL INDIA

- **82.2% households** own gold (vs. 81.1% urban)
- Avg. holding: ₹39,775 (rural) vs. ₹85,474 (urban)
- 90% untapped rural market (collateral for agri/emergency loans)
- 65% of agricultural households rely on gold as their sole collateral

URBAN INDIA

- Shift to ETFs/digital gold (55% urban millennials prefer ETFs)
- 61% gold loans via banks, 39% via NBFCs (FY24)
- 30% of urban consumers actively use digital gold platforms
- Growing Trend: 15-20% increase in digital gold investment annually



Sources: Metals Focus, World Gold Council; Disclaime

Table 1: Jewellery demand peaks between September and November



Global Gold Innovations: Lessons for India

GLOBAL USE CASES

1. Gold-Backed Digital Currencies (Pax Gold, Tether Gold)

- Key: Blockchain tokens (1:1 gold) enable fractional ownership (from ₹10)
- Impact: \$1.2B+ market cap (2024); bridges DeFi & traditional gold
- India Potential: Attract 10M urban youth (55% prefer digital gold)

2. Gold-Backed Green Bonds (Canada)

- Key: Gold funds renewables (e.g., Canada's \$200M solar/wind projects)
- Impact: Aligns with global ESG trends (\$30T assets by 2030)
- **India Potential:** Fund 500GW renewable target (2030)

3. AI-Powered Gold Lending (USA)

- Key: Al valuation (85% accuracy) cuts loan time by 50%
- Impact: Boosted USA's AI-Powered Lending:
 - 50% faster loan processing; replicable via Muthoot's AI valuation tools
- o India Potential: Solve Muthoot's 20% digital gap; voice-Al for rural users

4. Gold Microinsurance (Ghana)

- Key: Gold collateral insures farmers (₹500/month premiums)
- **Impact:** Cut Ghana's farmer debt by 25%
- India Potential: Cover 65% rural agri-households (untapped 90%)

POTENTIAL FOR INDIA

- Pax Gold (Digital Tokens): Fractional ownership could attract 10M urban youth.
- Gold-Backed Green Bonds: Fund rural solar projects (aligns with India's 500GW renewable target).

CHALLENGES FOR INDIA

- Regulatory gaps: RBI's 3-month compliance mandate for lenders.
- Trust deficit: 70% rural households distrust institutional gold schemes.

SECURING TRANSACTIONS & EMPLOYMENT CREATION

- 1. Implement blockchain for tamper-proof gold loan records and AI-powered real-time fraud detection to ensure transparency and security.
- 2. Create jobs in cybersecurity, Al-driven gold valuation, regional loan consultancy, and gold transaction analysis to support financial inclusion.

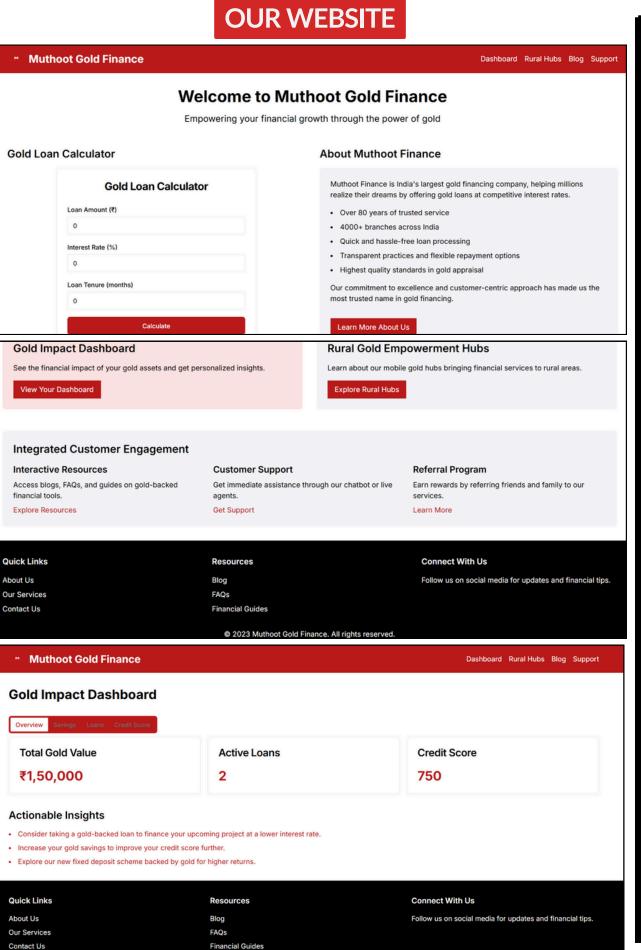
NEW & UNIQUE POTENITAL FOR MUTHOOT FINANCE (POST BUDGET 2025)

New Product	Target Segment	Key Benefit		
Gold-Backed MSME Loans	First-time entrepreneurs & MSMEs	Low-interest loans up to ₹2 crore using gold as collateral		
Gold-Linked Investment <u>Plans</u>	Middle-class & tax-saving customers	Invest in gold + mutual funds for long-term savings		
Gold Health Card	Families & senior citizens	Cashless hospitalization, medical insurance using pledged gold		
Gold-Backed Travel Finance	Tourism businesses & individuals	Low-interest loans for vacations & hospitality businesses		
Startup Gold Loan	Women, SC/ST entrepreneurs	Special low-cost financing for startups using family gold		
Gold-Powered Rent Deposit Loan	Tenants & landlords	Pay rent security deposits instantly by pledging gold		
<u>Defense Gold Loan</u>	Armed forces & defense families	Special interest rates & flexible repayment for military personnel		

COMPARISON WITH COMPETITOR

Parameter	Gold Loan AUM	Market Share	Digital Reach	Interest Rates	Product Diversity	Key Strength
Muthoot Finance	₹60,000 crore	~25-30%	20% users	12-24% p.a.	Gold loans only	Brand trust, high AUM
Manappuram Finance	₹20,000 crore	~10-12%	30% users	10-22% p.a.	Microfinance, housing loans	Tech-driven, flexible terms
IIFL Finance	₹25,000 crore	~8-10%	25% users	11-20% p.a.	Gold loans, SME loans, wealth management	Competitive rates, diversified portfolio

Innovative Gold Solutions & Unique Value Proposition



Innovative Solution	What It Does	Why It's Unique	
Gold-Backed Subscription Plans	Pledge gold for ongoing financial benefits	Continuous engagement model rather than one-time pledges	
<u>Gamified Gold Ecosystem</u> (<u>Goldiverse)</u>	Goldiverse app tracks gold value & rewards users.	Gamification increases financial literacy & loyalty	
Gold Vault-as-a-Service	Secure, insured, tech-backed digital gold storage	Eliminates physical handling inefficiencies	
Community Gold Investment Pools	Rural households pool gold for collective loans	Enables lower interest loans and shared financial empowerment	
Gold Lifecycle Program	Incentivizes recycling, upgrades, and generational loans	Converts emotional gold value into financial growth	
Al-Driven Gold Loan Advisor	Al chatbot for gold valuation & tailored loan advice	Supports voice-based AI in regional languages	
Gold-Backed Micro-Savings Wallet	Allows micro-gold deposits, starting from ₹10	Small gold savings act as collateral for future loans	
Gold Karma – Social Impact Lending	Pledge gold to support social causes (e.g., education)	Merges financial inclusion with social empowerment	
Gold-Linked UPI Payment System	Payments & credit line backed by pledged gold	Seamlessly integrates traditional gold with modern finance	
Gold Health Card	Free checkups & emergency loans using pledged gold	Links healthcare benefits with financial security	
Gold Impact Dashboard	Tracks financial benefits of gold assets	Provides real-time optimization insights	
Rural Gold Empowerment Hubs	Mobile gold hubs offer instant loans & digital education	Expands financial inclusion in rural areas	



References:

1 World Gold
Council
2 Global Use
Case (Pax Gold)
3 Market
Analysis
4 Budget 2025
5 All links

Our Website
Our detailed
Report

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