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Headline: Gold imports stood at 39.8 tonnes in November

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Coverage –

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GOLD imports went up by over 42 per cent during November at 39.8 tonne in spite of ruling high price as compared to the corresponding month in 2009. India, the world's largest consumer of the yellow metal, imported 28 tonne during November 2009, according to data given by the Bombay Bullion Association (BBA).

"Even as the price skyrocketed, good monsoon coupled with rise in equity and commodity markets increased the purchasing power of people followed by boost in demand. Whereas 2009 was faced with recession that affected the demand," BBA President Prithviraj Kothari told PTI.

Gold price in the domestic mar-

ket was ruling at over Rs 25,000 per 10 grams level, while in the international markets it was at \$1,387.11 an ounce (28.34 grams).

Earlier the World Gold Council (WGC) in its report on Q3 gold demand trends in 2010 had said the total demand for the yellow metal was up by 79 per cent to 650.4 tonnes in the January-September period compared to 363 tonnes in the same period in 2009.

"We expect this phenomenon to continue. With the wedding season coming up and two months still remaining until the end of 2010, we anticipate that Indian gold will continue to reach greater heights," WGC Managing Director (Middle East and India) Ajay Mitra had said.

The rise in demand boosted the total imports, which have

already exceeded last year's 559 tonnes and is likely to cross the 750-tonne mark this year, he said.

The demand for jewellery is likely to exceed the 2009 level mainly due to an anticipated recovery in India and China's growing economic strength, Mitra said.

Bullion prices fall flat on sluggish demand

NEW DELHI: Gold and silver prices continued their losing streak for the third straight day in the national capital today, due to sluggish demand at prevailing higher levels, despite firm trends in global markets.

Gold fell further by Rs 40 to Rs 20,720 per 10 grams in continuation to a combined loss of Rs 60 in last two sessions, while silver fell by Rs 130 to Rs 44,820 per kg, after a decline of Rs 350 in the last two days.

Market analysts said trading sentiment were so weak that a firm trend in the Asian region, which set prices on the domestic front, failed to boost the precious metals' prices. Gold rose by 0.2 per cent to \$1,388.52 an ounce in Seoul.

On the domestic front, gold of 99.9 and 99.5 per cent purity fell further by Rs 40 each to Rs 20,720 and Rs 20,600 per 10 grams, respectively. Sovereign followed suit and lost Rs 50 to Rs 16,750 per piece of eight gram.—PTI