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GST Council meet: Here's what will become cheaper for you

BY ET ONLINE | UPDATED: DEC 22, 2018, 04.18 PM IST

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NEW DELHI: The 31st [GST Council meet](#) on Saturday rationalised the 28 per cent slab by reducing the tax on 33 items. Now these 33 items have been brought down to 12% and 5% from 18% while 7 items brought to 18%, lower from 28%. [Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley](#) said that the recommendations by the fitment panel have been considered in today's meet.

Here are the key points:

* 34 items have been kept in 28 per cent slabs, which are mainly luxury and sin products. Rates have been reduced for 22 items under the 28 per cent slab.

* GST rate on special flights for pilgrims lowered for economy at 5 percent and business class at 12 percent.

* Power bank of Lithium iron batteries, video games, small sport related items, accessories for carriages for disabled removed from 28% slab.

* 13 items of automobile parts, 8 items of cement industry will remain under the 28 per cent.

* 6 items have been moved from 28 per cent slab.

* GST for cinema tickets less than Rs 100 reduced from 18% to 12%, for tickets above than Rs 100, GST reduced from 28% to 18%.

* Air conditioners, dishwashers largely used by upper segment of society, left at 28%.

The GST Council pruned the 28 per cent slab by cutting tax rates on 191 goods over the last one year, leaving just 35 items, including AC, digital camera, video recorders, dishwashing machine and automobiles, in the highest tax bracket.

There were around 226 goods in the 28 per cent category when Goods and Services Tax (GST) was implemented on July 1, 2017.

Cement rate reduction has not been taken up as it has huge revenue implications, said Thomas Isaac, finance minister, Kerala.

On December 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the government is aiming to bring 99 per cent of items below the 18 per cent GST slab and warned of stringent action against defaulters of bank loan and fugitives.

His announcement, however, was not very well- received with West Bengal finance minister Amit Mitra saying, "The statement made by the Prime Minister on December 18 just before the GST Council meeting on December 22 undermines the constitutional authority of GST Council as it pre-empted the decision making authority of the Council."

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Fitment panel recommendations have been considered in today's meet, said Arun Jaitley

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