

Understanding the AC Control Bill, 2025

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Understanding the AC Control Bill, 2025: Energy Efficiency vs Personal Freedom

Context

To address rising energy consumption and promote sustainable cooling practices, the **Union Ministry of Power** has proposed a draft legislation titled the **Ease of Cooling (Regulation and Control) Act, 2025**. While presented in a satirical tone, the Act humorously highlights the tension between **energy efficiency**, **individual comfort**, and **regulatory overreach**, using air conditioner (AC) usage as the focal point.

Title, Extent & Commencement

- **Short Title:** Ease of Cooling (Regulation and Control) Act, 2025
 - **Extent:** Applies to the **entire super built-up area** of residential properties, including **balcony spaces** used for flower pots.
 - **Commencement:** Comes into effect when **any AC is installed and begins functioning** in a household.
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Key Definitions

- **Individual Resident:** Any person with **government-approved ID** (Aadhaar, PAN, Voter ID), preferably associated with a **carbon-based life form**.
- **Permissible Temperature Range (PTR):** Defined as **20°C to 28°C**.
- **Temperature Rakshak Sangh (TRAKS):** A volunteer group equipped with **government-**

issued thermal scanners to monitor indoor AC settings and compliance.

Purpose of the Act

- To promote **climate-sensitive behaviour** in managing cooling needs.
 - To reduce **household electricity bills** through regulated AC usage.
 - To encourage a **balanced approach** to indoor comfort and environmental responsibility.
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Mandatory Compliance Requirements

- **AC manufacturers and retailers** must:
 - Lock default AC settings within the **PTR (20°C-28°C)**.
 - Ensure customers complete **Know Your AC (KYAC)** formalities before taking delivery.
 - **Residents** must:
 - Download the **DigiTapMan app**.
 - Register the AC using **Aadhaar-based login**.
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Enforcement Mechanism

- **TRAKS volunteers** are authorised to:
 - **Enter any AC-enabled residence**, including **bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, and utility areas**.
 - Conduct **random checks**, regardless of time (day or night).

- **If violations are found**, such as:

- AC temperature set **outside the PTR**,
- Ambient temperature **below acceptable range**,
- **No visible signs of sweating**,
Then TRAKS may:
- **Seize non-compliant AC units.**
- **Accept voluntary donations** to a political party in exchange for letting the violator go.

Appeal Mechanism

- Any aggrieved resident may file an **appeal** before an **Appellate Authority**, to be notified by the **Central Government**.

