



Section 144 Imposed in Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | 20 Mar 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government has imposed [Section 144 Code Of Criminal Procedure \(CrPC\)](#) in Lucknow till **17th May, 2024** in the wake of upcoming **Lok Sabha elections and festivals**.

Key Points

- The Lok Sabha election in Uttar Pradesh for the year 2024 will be conducted in seven phases, spanning **from 19th April to 1st June**.
- The **election schedule**, announced by the [Election Commission of India \(ECI\)](#), will commence from the **sugarcane belt in the western region** of the state and conclude in **Purvanchal**, often described as the **rice bowl of UP**.
 - **Vote counting** is set to take place on 4th June, 2024.

Section 144 CrPC

- This law **empowers the magistrate of any state or union territory in India** to pass an order prohibiting the gathering of four or more people in a specified area.
- It is **imposed in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger** of some event that has the potential to cause trouble or damage to human life or property.
- This order can be **passed against a particular individual or general public**.
- Features of Section 144:
 - It **places restrictions on handling or transporting** any kind of weapon in the given jurisdiction.
 - The **maximum punishment for such an act is three years**.
 - According to the order under this section, **there shall be no movement of public** and all educational institutions shall also remain closed.
 - Further, **there will be a complete bar on holding any kind of public meeting or rallies** during the period of operation of this order.
 - It is **deemed a punishable offence to obstruct law enforcement agencies** from disbanding an unlawful assembly.
 - It also **empowers the authorities to block internet access** in the region.
 - The ultimate purpose of Section 144 is to **maintain peace and order in the areas** where trouble could erupt to disrupt the regular life.

Deepak Kumar New Home Secretary of Uttar Pradesh | Uttar Pradesh | 20 Mar 2024

Why in News?

Recently, **the Election Commission** has approved **Senior IAS officer Deepak Kumar** as the new **Home Secretary** of Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- Deepak Kumar, a 1990 batch IAS officer, is presently **Additional Chief Secretary of Finance and Basic Education**.

Chief Secretary of State

- **Appointment:**
 - The Chief Secretary is **'chosen'** by the Chief Minister.
 - As the appointment of Chief Secretary is an executive action of the Chief Minister, it is taken in the name of the Governor of the State.
- **Position:**
 - The post of Chief Secretary is the **senior-most position in the civil services** of the states and union territories of India.
 - The position is a cadre post for the **Indian Administrative Services**.
 - The Chief Secretary is the **chief advisor to the Chief Minister** in all matters of the cabinet.
- **Tenure:**
 - The office of Chief Secretary has been excluded from the operation of the tenure system.
 - There is **no fixed tenure** for this post.

Election Commission of India

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- It was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January **1950 (celebrated as National Voters' Day)**. The secretariat of the commission is in New Delhi.
- The body administers elections to the **Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India**, and the offices of the **President and Vice President** in the country.
- It is not concerned with the elections to **panchayats and municipalities** in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate **State Election Commission**.