Cyber Police Stations in Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government is to establish **cyber police stations in 57 districts** after the **parliamentary polls** with each cyber police station having 25 posts for officers and employees.

Key Points

- The state government, in response to the rising incidents of **cybercrime** nationally and globally, has decided to establish cyber police stations across all 75 districts of the state.
    - While cyber stations are already operational in 18 divisions, the remaining 57 districts will also get such stations following the Lok Sabha elections.
- The finalisation of these stations will occur following the lifting of the **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** and the conclusion of the general elections.

Model Code of Conduct (MCC)

- The MCC is a **consensus document**. The political parties have themselves agreed to keep their conduct during elections in check and to work within the Code.
- It helps the **Election Commission (EC)** in keeping with the mandate it has been given under Article 324 of the Constitution, which gives it the **power to supervise** and conduct free and fair elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures.
- The MCC is operational from the date on **which the election schedule is announced until the date of the result announcement.**
- The government **cannot announce any financial grants**, promise construction of roads or other facilities, and make any ad hoc appointments in government or public undertaking during the time the Code is in force.
- **Enforceability of MCC:**
    - Though the **MCC does not have any statutory backing**, it has come to acquire strength in the past decade because of its strict enforcement by the EC.
    - Certain provisions of the MCC may be enforced by invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes such as the Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860**,** Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1973**, and** Representation of Peoples's Act (RPA) 1951.

Cybercrime

- It is defined as a crime where a **computer is the object of the crime or is used as a tool** to commit an offense.
    - Cybercrimes fall under State subjects as per the **Seventh Schedule of the Constitution** of India.
- It involves illegal or unauthorized activities that **exploit technology to commit various forms of crimes.**
- Cybercrime covers a wide range of offenses and can affect individuals, organizations, and even governments.