



Section 144 Imposed in Lucknow

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.