SC's Concern Over Voter Limit Increase

Recently, **Chief Justice** Sanjiv Khanna emphasised that **"no voter should be turned down,"** indicating the court's commitment to ensuring accessible voting for all citizens.

- Earlier, **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has pushed the maximum limit per polling station from 1,200 (in rural) and 1,400 (urban) to a uniform 1,500 voters, which has raised concerns regarding potential disenfranchisement.
- A **petition challenged the ECI's decision**, arguing that it **would lead to overcrowded polling stations and longer wait times**.
    - A voter takes around 90 seconds to cast their vote, allowing 45 voters per hour. Over 11 hours, a polling station can accommodate only 495 voters (660 voters with maximum efficiency).
    - The petition highlights that ECI's rationale for increasing the **limit lacks fresh data** like updated **census**.
- **Rules for Setting up Polling Station:**
    - **Representation of People Act, 1951** mandates the Election Commission to provide for a 'sufficient number of polling stations for every constituency'.
    - A polling station should be located so that voters typically travel **no more than 2 kilometers** to vote, with exceptions for sparsely populated hilly or forest areas.
- **ECI Programs to Increase Voter Turnouts:**
    - **SVEEP**
    - **Voter Helpline App**

Read More: Increasing Voter Turnouts

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