

Centre appoints Rakesh Asthana, six others as NHRC special monitors

**MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL**

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

THE CENTRE has appointed seven people, including former Delhi police commissioner Rakesh Asthana, as 'special monitors' of the National Human Rights Commission.

According to the order, "Consequent on acceptance of the terms and conditions contained in the offer letters of even number dated October 25, 2023, seven officers are hereby engaged as Special Monitors of the National Human Rights Commission on matters relating to the thematic area, with immediate effect and for a period up-to September 22, 2025." According to the order, Asthana will work as a special monitor who will oversee thematic ar-



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Tribune

CCTV footage goes missing from Nalagarh police station

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/cctv-footage-goes-missing-from-nalagarh-police-station-568312>

Solan, December 2

The working of the Nalagarh police has come under a scanner with a case of destruction of digital document to prevent its production as evidence under Section 204 of the IPC having been registered. This happened after 39-day footage of close circuit television (CCTV) cameras was found missing from the Nalagarh police station.

An FIR was registered at 9:09 pm on November 30. Since the role of DSPs and an SHO was under the scanner, a senior official would be entrusted the task to investigate it.

An Uttarakhand resident had alleged that the police officials had sought bribe for ensuring that she got bailed out in a case registered against her for forgery and cheating. The CCTV footage pertains to the period when the aggrieved woman had joined the police investigations at the Nalagarh police station.

She had later approached the high court in this case, which had in October ordered the transfer of the SHO and DSP concerned besides directing the DGP to constitute a special investigation team (SIT) to inquire into the matter within eight weeks.

The said officials were also directed not to interfere in the investigation. The aggrieved woman had also complained before the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) about being harassed by the police during probe.

An inquiry has also been initiated by the DIG, South Range, into these allegations on the directions of the NHRC.

Baddi SSP Mohit Chawla while confirming the news said while carrying out an inquiry the police officials found that the digital record pertaining to CCTV footage at the Nalagarh police station was not available. "An FIR has been registered and since the role of several officials was under the scanner, a senior official would be entrusted the task to investigate it," Chawla said.

A fact-finding inquiry was conducted by the Additional SP, Baddi, after the Baddi SSP received an anonymous mail claiming that the Nalagarh DSP had checked the CCTV footage pertaining to this case at the Nalagarh police station in violation of the court orders.

Interestingly, the DSP (Leave Reserve) had also checked the said CCTV footage during the same period. When inquired by senior officials, the Nalagarh DSP, DSP (Leave Reserve) and the SHO tried to put the onus on each other for the missing digital record.

Millennium Post

Eloquent echoes

With the support of NHRC and organisational backing up by Doon University, the Valley of Words is conducting Gaura Devi debate which will conclude on December 10 — the Human Rights Day

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/sundaypost/insight/eloquent-echoes-542699?infinitescroll=1>

This is the season of debates, ideas and expressions at VoW. After the very successful pan India school debate on the contest, collaboration, or both, between the UN and G20, college and university students will spar on whether the nation-state is the best guarantor of human rights, whether human rights can be extended to perpetrators of violence and gender empowerment as a condition precedent for any meaningful rollout of human rights. The subject for the final debate will be announced only two days before the finals so that there is an element of surprise — both for the finalists, as well as for the jury members and the observers to the debate!

All this has been made possible with the support of the National Human Rights Commission of India and the organisational back up of Uttarakhand's leading public-funded Doon University. The debate is named after the pioneer woman of the Chipko movement Gaura Devi. Why Gaura Devi? True, Gaura Devi was not a debater, but an activist who led from the front, whose spontaneous act of hugging the trees that had been earmarked for felling by the Symonds company led to the world-famous Chipko movement. Together with her companions, she defied the diktat of the forest department and the contractors and clung to the trees, both literally and metaphorically, thereby changing the discourse of the political economy of the environment. It changed forever the way both the state and the civil society looked at the trees and the environment. Are trees simply a utilitarian piece of wood, or part of the larger environment? Do they have a 'standing' in the legal and the ecological sense? Gaura Devi is thus an inspirational figure not just for students of Doon and of Uttarakhand, but of all ecologists everywhere. The Vatsalya debating club of Doon University acknowledges her as a significant role model: one who did not let her personal adversity come in the way of her commitment to the larger cause.

The four-square debate: four rounds, four subjects, four dates, four prizes Let me now share a few words about the structure of this four-round debate with four subjects on four dates: the first three being online, and the finals as a physical event at the Doon University. The preliminary round was held on November 17, the quarterfinals on November 27. The semifinals are on December 4, and the finals on December 10.

The first preliminary round was in the nature of an elocution contest for three minutes, and the top fifty participants qualified for the online quarter final debate — twenty-five each in Hindi and English — with a rebuttal round to make it livelier and more exciting. The Rebuttal round ensures that the participants go beyond surface reading of the recent articles and columns on the subject. The third step is even more interesting, called the 'turncoat round'; it has the same participant arguing for and against, which brings out the very best in the arguments. It is interesting to see how the same facts are placed in different contexts and how the factual and the counterfactual are juxtaposed against each other. Eight finalists — four each in Hindi and English — will emerge from this round who will be invited to Doon University, and of these eight, four will get the top prize of Rs 31,000 and Rs 21,000 for the best speaker and runner up in both Hindi and English.

As this column goes to print, the preliminary and the quarterfinals have been conducted successfully, and the short list of eight participants in English, and nine in Hindi (because of a tie) will now face each other in the semifinals on December 4. Finals on December 10: the Human Rights Day The final debate will take place on the Human Rights Day, which falls on December 10, to mark the adoption of the UNHCR seventy-five years ago at the 183rd meeting of the UNGA held in Paris. The UN website tells us that the UNHCR is one of the most widely translated documents – it is available in over 500 languages. As a foundational text in the history of human and civil rights, it is considered a milestone document for its universalist language which makes no reference to any particular political system, religion, geography or demography. India's unique contribution to the UNHCR was that it suggested the use of 'human' instead of 'man' in the draft Declaration of Rights of Man. It may also be mentioned that in 1948, the UN had 58 members as against 193 today, and of them, forty-eight voted in favour, with eight abstentions, most of whom were aligned to the Soviet Union while Honduras and Yemen were not present at the time of the vote. However, as of today, even the countries which had their initial reservations have signed the Declaration.

The NHRC: a beacon of hope for every human Three decades ago, in 1993, the Government of India established the NHRC on 12 October to create the much-needed institutional framework for promotion and protection of human rights of all citizens. It was becoming increasingly clear that the Ministries of Home Affairs and Social welfare were inundated with so much work that there was little focus on this aspect. There were many issues left unaddressed, as for example the issue of human rights of transgenders. NHRC has become one of the first 'national commissions' to recognise that transgenders cannot be excluded from the gamut of human rights, and has expressed its concern about the discrimination faced by transgenders even after the passage of The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. The Commission not only receives complaints about violations of human rights, but also takes suo moto cognizance, thereby alerting the executive machinery of the state towards its bounden duty to protect the human rights of every human being who resides within the territory of this nation.

In fine, Doon University and VoW are delighted to host the debate on human rights for it has opened hitherto unexplored vistas for the students and faculty members, besides creating an awareness about this subject among the citizens of tomorrow. The writer, a former Director of LBS National Academy of Administration, is currently a historian, policy analyst and columnist, and serves as the Festival Director of Valley of Words — a festival of arts and literature.

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ETV Bharat

दिल्ली के पूर्व पुलिस कमिश्नर राकेश अस्थाना को NHRC का विशेष मॉनिटर नियुक्त किया गया

<https://www.etvbharat.com/hindi/delhi/bharat/delhi-former-police-commissioner-rakesh-asthana-appointment-as-nhrccs-special-monitor/na20231202151809392392362>

केंद्र सरकार ने दिल्ली के पूर्व पुलिस आयुक्त राकेश अस्थाना को राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग का विशेष मॉनिटर नियुक्त किया है। इससे पहले अस्थाना बीएसएफ के प्रमुख होने के साथ ही एनसीबी का अतिरिक्त प्रभार संभाल चुके हैं। National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, Delhi former Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana

नई दिल्ली : केंद्र सरकार ने दिल्ली के पूर्व पुलिस आयुक्त राकेश अस्थाना को राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (NHRC) का विशेष मॉनिटर नियुक्त किया है। वह आतंकवाद, उग्रवाद विरोधी, वामपंथी उग्रवाद, सांप्रदायिक दंगे आदि की देखभाल करेंगे। अवर सचिव बरजेश कुमानिया द्वारा 22 नवंबर को एनएचआरसी के आदेश के अनुसार 25 अक्टूबर 2023 तक के लिए 07 अधिकारियों को राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के विशेष मॉनिटर के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया है।

बताया गया है कि मानवाधिकार आयोग में उनका कार्यकाल 22 सितंबर 2025 अवधि तक के लिए होगा। इनके अलावा अन्य अधिकारियों में अमिताभ अग्निहोत्री विषयगत क्षेत्रों को देखेंगे। वहीं पर्यावरण, जलवायु परिवर्तन और मानवाधिकार, संजय अग्रवाल (प्रारंभिक शिक्षा और साक्षरता), डॉ. मनोहर अगनानी (सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य, स्वास्थ्य देखभाल और अस्पताल (मानसिक स्वास्थ्य, एचआईवी/एड्स, एसयूरियस डू, डाया नॉस्टिक्स और लैब्स), सुश्री ज्योत्सना सिटलिंग (आजीविका, कौशल और रोजगार), डॉ. मुक्तेश चंदर (साइबर अपराध और कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता) और आरके समा (जल, स्वच्छता और स्वच्छता) देखेंगे।

आदेश में कहा गया है कि विशेष मॉनिटर्स या तो एनएचआरसी के विशिष्ट आदेश के अनुसार या विशेष मॉनिटर्स द्वारा देखे गए या देखे गए मानवाधिकार उल्लंघन के मामलों के आधार पर मिशन का दौरा करेंगे। इसमें आगे कहा गया है कि किसी भी परिस्थिति में विशेष मॉनिटर्स को उस स्थान पर जाने से पहले चेयरपर्सन की अनुमति लेनी होगी। इसके अलावा यात्रा पूरी करने के बाद विशेष मॉनिटर एक रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करेगा और विशेष सिफारिशें सुझाएगा।

रिपोर्ट में घटनाओं के सामान्य विवरण के बजाय विशिष्ट मुद्दे और सिफारिशें शामिल होंगी। विशेष मॉनिटर्स किसी भी अन्य कार्यभार को लेने के लिए स्वतंत्र हैं, लेकिन उन्हें कोई भी कार्य सौंपते समय उनसे हितों के टकराव, यदि कोई हो, का खुलासा करने की उम्मीद की जाती है। यहां ध्यान देने वाली बात यह है कि गुजरात कैडर से सेवानिवृत्त आईपीएस राकेश अस्थाना का सेवा में लंबा करियर रहा है।

उन्होंने केंद्रीय जांच ब्यूरो (सीबीआई) में विशेष निदेशक के रूप में भी काम किया है। उन्हें जुलाई 2021 में दिल्ली के पुलिस आयुक्त के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया। वह 1 वर्ष के विस्तार के बाद 31 जुलाई 2022 को सेवानिवृत्त हुए थे। इसके अलावा अस्थाना सीमा सुरक्षा बल (बीएसएफ) के प्रमुख होने के साथ ही उनके पास नारकोटिक्स कंट्रोल ब्यूरो (एनसीबी) का अतिरिक्त प्रभार भी था।

अस्थाना को तब भी सुर्खियां बटोरने के लिए जाना जाता है, जब वह विशेष सीबीआई निदेशक थे. इस दौरान तत्कालीन निदेशक आलोक वर्मा के साथ उनकी कड़वाहट ने राष्ट्रीय सुर्खियां बटोरी थीं. वर्मा ने तब कुख्यात मोइन कुरैशी मामले में अस्थाना के खिलाफ एफआईआर दर्ज की थी.

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Rakesh Asthana, 6 others made NHRC special monitors

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

FORMER Delhi Police commissioner Rakesh Asthana has got an official hiring post-retirement. He is appointed as one of the seven 'special monitors' of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

He will oversee thematic areas of NHRC such as terrorism, counter-insurgency, communal riots and violence related to Leftwing extremism as a special monitor.

After a wide consultation, the Modi government appointed seven officials, including Rakesh Asthana by an order passed on November 22. The order states that Muktesh Chandra, another retired IPS officer, has also been appointed as a special monitor with the responsibility of monitoring cyber crimes & artificial intelligence (AI). Amitabh Agnihotri is also one of the seven special monitors, who will oversee environment, climate change and human rights-related issues.

According to the order, Sanjay Aggarwal will monitor elementary education while RK Sama will monitor water, sanitation and hygiene as one of the special monitors with NHRC.

As per the order, Manohar Agani will be responsible for



monitoring the thematic areas concerning public health, healthcare, HIV-AIDS and spurious drugs, while Jyotsna Sittling will monitor thematic areas concerning livelihood, skilling and employment.

Duties

As an NHRC special monitor, Rakesh Asthana will oversee thematic areas of NHRC such as terrorism, counter-insurgency, communal riots and violence related to Leftwing extremism.

Asthana is a 1984-batch IPS officer and was appointed in 2021 as Delhi police commissioner till July 31 in 2022. He has been serving as the BSF chief while holding additional charge of Narcotics Bureau earlier. He has served in state and the Centre, and twice in the CBI. While serving in CBI, he hogged the limelight for investigating fodder scam in which RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav was accused. Working as special director in CBI, Asthana got into a feud with the CBI's then director Alok Verma.

Asthana was cleared from all charges after a CBI probe.

Indian Express

Rakesh Asthana, 6 others appointed NHRC special monitors

As special monitor of the National Human Rights Commission, Rakesh Asthana will oversee terrorism, counter-insurgency, communal riots, and Left-wing extremism.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/nhrc-special-monitors-rakesh-asthana-6-appointed-9051119/>

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According to the order issued on November 22 by under-secretary Barjesh Kumania, "Consequent on acceptance of the terms and conditions contained in the offer letters of even number dated October 25, 2023, seven officers are hereby engaged as Special Monitors of the National Human Rights Commission on matters relating to the thematic area, with immediate effect and for a period up-to September 22, 2025."

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It further states, "Manohar Agani will see thematic areas; public health, healthcare and hospital (mental health, HIV/Aids, Spurious drugs, diagnostics and labs) and thematic areas of livelihood, skilling and employment will be looked after by Jyotsna Sitling."

In 2021, four days before his scheduled retirement, the Centre had appointed 1984-batch Gujarat cadre IPS officer Asthana as the new Delhi police commissioner till July 31, 2022. Asthana was the chief of the Border Security Force (BSF) and also held additional charge of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). Before his joining, Balaji Srivastava, an IPS officer of the 1988 AGMUT batch, was given additional charge as Delhi police commissioner and he left after only 27 days.

Asthana has had diverse experience in service, having served both in state government and at the Centre, where he served twice in the CBI. During his first stint in the agency, he investigated the fodder scam, which resulted in the conviction of former Bihar chief minister Lalu Yadav.

As a special director in the CBI, Asthana was involved in a bitter feud with the agency's then director Alok Verma. At the peak of the turf war within CBI, Verma registered an FIR against Asthana on October 15, 2018, alleging that a suspect in the Moin Qureshi case had been forced to pay Rs 2.95 crore to Asthana through two middlemen to water down the case against him. Asthana was eventually cleared of all charges and the CBI had submitted in the high court that there was no evidence to support the charges against him.

The incident precipitated such a crisis that the government swooped down on the agency at midnight on October 21, 2018, and forced both to go on leave. Nageswara Rao was then handed over the charge of CBI temporarily.

Fair Observer

Were 30 Years of the Slaughter of Kashmiri Hindus Inevitable?

Pandit minorities in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir have long been targets of ethnic cleansing efforts by Islamic terrorists. The grotesque truth of Pandit genocide has only recently come to light for many Indians. Corrupt politicians, the mass media and other organizations had suppressed the news, enabling and even rewarding continued bloodshed. The latest genocide has ended after 30 years, but could it have been prevented altogether?

<https://www.fairobserver.com/world-news/india-news/were-30-years-of-the-slaughter-of-kashmiri-hindus-inevitable/>

BY VIJAY K. SAZAWAL

The year is 1998. Sunday, January 25, 1998, to be precise. Super Bowl XXXII is in full swing. The Denver Broncos defeat the defending champions, the Green Bay Packers, by a score of 31–24. Bill Clinton is the president of the USA, and the following day he will discuss the Monica Lewinsky story publicly. India celebrates its Republic Day on January 26 as well. Both countries experience a festive weekend.

But not everyone in India enjoys it. Approximately 800 kilometers from the Indian capital of New Delhi, in a hamlet in the Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir (or simply Kashmir), a gruesome event of horrific proportions takes place. Wandhama village is home to roughly 200 farmers, with about two dozen being Kashmiri Pandits — a minority community living in a few homes surrounded by Muslim neighbors. On this day, foreign mujahideen and domestic terrorists enter the village. These radicals pluck Kashmiri Pandits, assemble them in a line, and shoot them dead one by one. The deceased include four children, nine women and ten men. The sole survivor, a boy, escapes death because other victims fall over him and the killers assume the boy is dead. In the hamlet of Wandhama, the centuries-old Kashmiri Pandit community is wiped out in minutes.

Ghastly as the Wandhama tragedy is, an even more heinous crime took place a year earlier. On June 15, 1997, in the Ramban district, about 130 kilometers south of the state capital of Srinagar, terrorists stopped a bus carrying passengers from Ramban to the nearby village of Gool. Four terrorists entered the bus and asked Hindus to step out of the bus. Six Hindu passengers did so. The mujahideen then shot three of them. All three victims were Kashmiri Pandits who were teachers in the Gool Higher Secondary School. The three Hindus spared were not Pandits.

The Wandhama tragedy of 1998 was followed by another massacre. On March 23, 2003, mujahideen members massacred all Kashmiri Pandits in Nadimarg village, located in Kashmir's Pulwama district. Of the 24 killed, 11 each were men and women while two were young boys.

An little-known story about a great tragedy

Western, especially American, media tends to forget one key fact about Kashmir. Fanatical Islamic mujahideen terrorists perpetrated genocide of Kashmiri Pandits. This fact was even forgotten by Indian media until the film *The Kashmir Files* came out in 2022.

Only a year ago did Indian moviegoers grasp the horrors of the genocide. Behind this brutal ethnic cleansing, lies a tale of betrayal and deceit. The dominant groups in the country — Indian political leaders, Indian media, Indian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) — did their best to hide this genocide. Their cover-up efforts were effective. To this day, even many Indians question whether Kashmiri Pandits faced genocide. Wikipedia erroneously still defines this genocide as an exodus.

Even today, Kashmiri Pandit massacres of the 1990s remain unsolved. Importantly, the Indian state in the 1990s was well aware of what was going on. On June 10, 1999, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) concluded that the Kashmiri Pandit experience had been “akin to genocide.”

Only in the last couple of years — 30 years after the Kashmiri Pandit genocide — has the Indian government finally started investigations into the killings of only a few victims. Even talk of genocide ignores the extent of the tragedy that Kashmiri Pandits experienced. They experienced their own version of Kristallnacht (the “Night of Broken Glass”) that Jews experienced on November 9, 1938, in Berlin. The Kashmiri Pandit Kristallnacht occurred in Anantnag district of Kashmir on February 20, 1986. Their homes, shops, temples and other property were desecrated or burned in the district.

The government shamefully failed to act in Anantnag. After the Kashmiri Pandit Kristallnacht, there was no arrest, no investigation and no trial. Murderers, arsonists and ethnic cleansers got away scot-free. The morale of fanatical Islamists shot up. They now rightly assumed that Kashmiri Pandits were on the menu.

In 1986, the Congress Party was in power in New Delhi. In 1989, a ragtag opposition coalition took charge. A certain Kashmiri politician took charge as home minister, the top job in the cabinet that oversees internal national security. Ironically, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed — the new home minister from Kashmir — was the rabble-rousing politician who instigated the Kashmiri Pandit Kristallnacht in Anantnag.

Sayeed belongs to the elite Kashmiri Muslim ruling class. Supposedly, he is a direct descendant of Muhammad, the prophet and founder of Islam. This ruling Muslim elite first systematically persecuted Kashmiri Pandits, then subjected them to a brutal campaign of violence, intimidation and terror, and then ethnically cleansed Kashmir of its original community: the Kashmiri Pandits. New Delhi appeased the Kashmiri Muslim elite, gave them a clean chit and turned a Nelson’s eye to the genocide of the hapless Kashmiri Pandits. Justice has not only been delayed but denied to these tragic victims by successive Indian governments.

Murderers got away scot-free, appeasement did not work

Sayeed and other members of the Kashmiri Muslim elite got away with murder. National politicians in New Delhi pursued an appeasement policy with this murderous elite. The Congress Party and the coalition that succeeded them wanted to retain support of the Kashmiri elite to keep control of Kashmir. They also thought this elite would be useful for getting the Muslim vote in the rest of the country. So, they colluded with national media to keep the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits out of the press.

During this period, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) was in the ascendant. They were training jihadis to foment trouble in Kashmir. Since 1947, Pakistan has wanted control of Kashmir. As a Muslim-majority region, Pakistan sees Kashmir as a natural part of the nation. Kashmir is part of Pakistan's foundational myth. Hence, the genocide of Kashmir Pandits is part of the grand plan of Islamizing this region and reclaiming it for the pure nation of Islam.

Bottom of Form

Before the genocide began, Kashmir had 350,000 Kashmiri Pandits. By 2016, this number had declined to 2,764. Note that the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits has been a long, drawn-out affair. It began as early as the 14th century when Islam first came to Kashmir. The difference between earlier waves of violence and the one in the 1990s is the fact that this genocide occurred in the sovereign territory of secular, democratic and multiethnic India.

Two questions arise.

Was the 1990s genocide of Kashmiri Pandits inevitable? Yes, given the stupidity of national politicians and the weakness of Indian democracy.

Was this genocide avoidable? Yes, if leaders had acted bravely and wisely against fanatical Islamists, a messianic Pakistan and a diabolical, duplicitous local Muslim elite.

[Lee Thompson-Kolar edited this piece.]

Rakesh Asthana, 6 others made NHRC special monitors

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

FORMER Delhi Police commissioner Rakesh Asthana has got an official hiring post-retirement. He is appointed as one of the seven 'special monitors' of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

He will oversee thematic areas of NHRC such as terrorism, counter-insurgency, communal riots and violence related to Leftwing extremism as a special monitor.

After a wide consultation, the Modi government appointed seven officials, including Rakesh Asthana by an order passed on November 22. The order states that Muktesh Chandra, another retired IPS officer, has also been appointed as a special monitor with the responsibility of monitoring cyber crimes & artificial intelligence (AI). Amitabh Agnihotri is also one of the seven special monitors, who will oversee environment, climate change and human rights-related issues.

According to the order, Sanjay Aggarwal will monitor elementary education while RK Sama will monitor water, sanitation and hygiene as one of the special monitors with NHRC.

As per the order, Manohar Agani will be responsible for



monitoring the thematic areas concerning public health, healthcare, HIV-AIDS and spurious drugs, while Jyotsna Siding will monitor thematic areas concerning livelihood, skilling and employment.

Duties

As an NHRC special monitor, Rakesh Asthana will oversee thematic areas of NHRC such as terrorism, counter-insurgency, communal riots and violence related to Leftwing extremism.

Asthana is a 1984-batch IPS officer and was appointed in 2021 as Delhi police commissioner till July 31 in 2022. He has been serving as the BSF chief while holding additional charge of Narcotics Bureau earlier. He has served in state and the Centre, and twice in the CBI. While serving in CBI, he hogged the limelight for investigating fodder scam in which RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav was accused. Working as special director in CBI, Asthana got into a feud with the CBI's then director Alok Verma.

Asthana was cleared from all charges after a CBI probe.

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