

Advocate General Library, Bihar

High Court Campus, Patna

Overview

Nestled within the prestigious High Court Campus of Patna, the Advocate General Library serves as the intellectual backbone of Bihar's legal administration. Under the visionary leadership of **Sri Prashant Kumar Shahi**, Learned Advocate General of Bihar, the library has undergone tremendous transformative modernization to meet the evolving needs of legal professionals in the digital era.

Modernization Milestones

Under the enlightening guidance of Learned Advocate General, Bihar Sri P.K.Shahi, the library was revitalized based on direct feedback from officials and law officers. Key upgrades include:

- **Updated Legal Collections**
 - Complete 2024 editions of all Central Acts
 - Comprehensive volumes of both state and central law books
 - Regular updates of Rules and regulations to ensure relevance and accuracy
- 1. **Regular Availability & Journals in the Library**
 - Supreme Court Cases (SCC)
 - All India Reporter (AIR)
 - All India Reporter – Supreme Court Weekly (AIR SCW)
 - Labour and Industrial Cases (LIC)
 - Criminal Law Journal (CrLJ)
 - Patna Law Journal Reports (PLJR)
 - Bihar Law Judgments (BLJ)
 - Bihar Bar Council Journal (BBCJ)
- **Digital Integration**
 - Access to premier legal databases:
AIR Infotech,
Live Law,
SCC Online, and
PLJR Software
 - Resources available in both print and digital formats, including WhatsApp-based access
 - Enhanced technical proficiency for state law officers through training and support

Institutional Impact

The modernization of the library is part of a broader reform agenda led by Sri P.K.Shahi, which includes:

Administrative & Financial Autonomy

Cabinet ratification on 21 August 2024 granted the Advocate General's Office full administrative independence and direct financial access to the Finance Department

Legacy of Excellence

Established in 1937, the Advocate General Library is one of the largest law libraries in Bihar. It houses over **25,000 legal documents**, including:

- Books, Monographs, Encyclopedic sets (Indian and foreign)
- Law reports, Statutes, Commission/Committee reports
- State legislation, Parliamentary debates, and other legislative materials
- E-resources such as online reports and CD-ROM legal databases

Complete documentation of Acts, Amendments (Central and State), Rules, Regulations, Bye-laws, Schemes, and Notifications is maintained to ensure timely availability for law officers.

Library Rules & Operations

1. General

The Advocate General's Library serves as a reference library for all law officers of the Government of Bihar.

2. Control

The library is under the overall supervision of the Learned Advocate General.

3. Duties of the Librarians

- Responsible for all library operations
- Maintains discipline and supervision of staff
- Ensuring accurate record-keeping and timely book issuance
- Incorporation of correction slips in reference books
- Inspection of accession registers and providing reference services
- Securing the library and managing its keys

4. Working Hours

Open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on all working days, with extended hours as and when required by the order of the Learned Advocate General in the interest of State litigation.

5. Book Arrangement

Books are organized subject-wise, while journals are arranged according to year and volume.

6. Catalogue

A catalogue is maintained in register form, consisting of both classified and alphabetical order.

7. Acquisition of New Books

- Catalogues from publishers are circulated for selection
- A purchase committee finalizes selections periodically

- Orders are placed to approved vendors
- The librarian monitors supply and verifies invoices

8. Eligible members include:

- Law Officers
- Assistant Counsels
- Additional Public Prosecutors
- Research Scholars

9. Usage Guidelines

- Books are issued on requisition slip or written request
- Must be returned promptly; members are liable for damage or loss
- Damaged books must be reported before borrowing
- Books if lost require adequate compensation.
- Reference books may be lent to member for overnight
- Sub-letting of books is prohibited

10. Facilities Provided

Services

- Circulation & Lending
- Legal Research Assistance
- Reference Services
- Documentation Service
- Inter-Library Loan
- Digital Current Content Services

11. Clearance Certificate

Members leaving their position must return all books and obtain a clearance certificate before final salary disbursement.

12. Stock Verification

Stock verification is conducted annually.

13. Usage Restrictions

- Handle books with care
- Maintain strict silence
- No personal belongings allowed
- Smoking is prohibited
- No removal of pages from any material
- Marking, underlining and highlighting strictly prohibited.
- Unauthorized persons are not permitted inside the Library.
- Library access is restricted to State Government lawyers

14. Rule Violations

Any breach of rules may result in forfeiture of membership.

15. Final Authority

Matters not covered by these rules will be decided by the Learned Advocate General.

16. Staff of Library :

Head Librarian	:	Kumar Bimalendu "Bimal" (Mob.No.-9507601780)
Data Entry Operator	:	Mrs. Rinki Kumari (Mob.No.-8541900471)

Office Attendant

: Alok Kumar Pankaj (Mob.No.-8789356484)