

## National Information Commission Visit of Constitutional Law Group Students

On 19 May 2023, the 17 students of BALLB Fourth Year, specializing in constitutional law visited the National Information Commission, Devinagar, New Baneshwor, a statutory body formed by the Right to Information Act, 2064. The visit was facilitated by subject teacher Assoc. Prof. Gyanu Gautam and organized by clinical Law Department to pursue the requirement of the syllabus of Good Governance.

The study visit was carried out in the Presentation and Question-Answer modality. There was an intensive discussion with the officials of the commission regarding the different facets of the Right to Information for the promotion of good governance in the country. Mr. Diwash Acharya, the secretary of the commission made the foundational presentation on the legal arrangement for the RTI in the Nepalese context which was followed by a long Q/A session. Mr. Acharya, together with law officer's duos Mr. Jiwan Kunwar and Mr. Sanjip Kumar Adhikari replied to the queries of the students and ignited other relevant issues for further inquiries.

The discussion revolved around the issues of Historical aspects of RTI, the Nexus of RTI with Good-Governance, RTI as a fundamental right, the Role of Information Officers, Procedures for asking for information from the public offices, the Formation and Role of National Information Commission, Appeal proceeding in commission and other relevant issues. The other contemporary issues concerning RTI, like the unpublished Lal Aayog Report, Controversies about the Division of Information, Reasons for increasing RTIs issue in the local tier of government, Judicial intervention on RTI, Dichotomy between the Right to privacy and Right to Information, were also discussed. Meanwhile, the officials remarked on the deficiency of an adequate budget for the commission required for the attainment of its objective. According to them, the annual budgets of the commission have been declining every year as the government has not prioritized this institution.

The commission also distributed its publication named, '*Suchnako Hak: Pathya Samagri*' to the students to know about the issue in question in depth. The book, besides the basic of RTI, contains the efforts made by the commission for the realization of RTI in a detailed manner. Meanwhile, the students visited different divisions of the commission and interacted with the concerned officials regarding their duties for the cause of enforcement of RTI.

The visit was concluded with a group photo session which has been attached in Annex-1 of this report. Finally, Mr. Hrithik Yadav representing KSL thanked the officials for their active support for the completion of the visit and expressed the willingness of continuing these kinds of interactions in the days to come between the two institutions. The participating students have feedbacked the program to be very fruitful.

