

Editorial

Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) presents the maiden issue of the *Journal of Foreign Affairs* (JoFA). International Relations are in the process of restructuring by the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The recent trajectories in the geopolitical sphere forced every nation to develop different diplomatic and strategic structures and models of cooperation. The existing relationships between the countries are being gradually altered and will be transforming geopolitically, economically and diplomatically. Equally, there is also an important aspect to build external outreach to secure support for the economic development of Nepal. Against this backdrop, it is essential to revisit Nepal's foreign policy in the neighbourhood, beyond the neighbourhood, and also on the regional and multilateral fronts. We believe that the *Journal of Foreign Affairs* fulfills that objective.

The *Journal of Foreign Affairs* followed a double-blind peer review process where the identity of authors and reviewers was kept confidential. The review generally involved two to four subject experts. JoFA mainly concentrates on the realm of Foreign Policy, International Relations, International Political Economy, Security and Strategic Affairs and Diplomacy. This issue, in particular, focuses on a wide range of concerns, including the strategies for border management, identifying actors in the foreign policy decision-making, conducting economic diplomacy, diversification of diplomatic maneuverings, Nepal's participation in UN peacekeeping missions and efforts to revive the SAARC, the importance of regime capability in diplomatic maneuverings, examining the relationships between labour diplomacy and migration governance, and Nepal's soft power capabilities. This issue has also incorporated a biography of the late Diplomat Yadu Nath Khanal and a book review of '*Nepal Worldview*'.

The *Journal of Foreign Affairs* is the upshot of the realization of the research gaps in the aforementioned fields. To fulfill these research gaps, IFA sought the assistance of the foreign policy experts, planners, academicians, researchers and journalists. Each paper, in this journal, is a contribution to the understanding of the changing dynamics of Nepal's foreign policy at the bilateral, multilateral and regional fronts. This volume does explore intensively into certain major issues of Nepal's foreign relations and the contemporary challenges faced by Nepal's diplomacy.

The *Journal of Foreign Affairs* is the result of the untiring efforts of the IFA Board members, and the invaluable feedbacks received from foreign policy experts, policy analysts, security experts, academicians, diplomats and researchers. IFA is thankful to all the contributors, peer-reviewers and copyeditors. In this context, the editorial board acknowledges the support and assistance of Mr Gyan Chandra Acharya, Mr Arjun Bahadur Thapa, Dr Dinesh Raj Bhujra, Mr Bijaya Lal Shrestha, Dr Ram Thapaliya, Dr Nischal Nath Pandey, Dr Naresh Nath Rimal, Mr Geja Sharma Wagle, Dr Jeevan Baniya, Dr Chandra Lal Pandey, Dr Purna Silwal, Mr. Prachanda Man Shrestha, Mr Suresh Sharma, Mr Ghanshyam Bhandari, Mr Sushil K. Lamsal, Mr Rambabu Dhakal. Moreover, we are thankful for the dedication and commitment of IFA officials Mr Matrika Poudyal, Mr Mahendra Prasad Joshi, Ms Binita Shrestha, Mr Sanuraja Puri, Mr Dron Lamichhane and all other supporting staff.

Executive Editors

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