NEW DIMENSIONS IN PUBLIC DIPLOMACY
Indian and Australian Experiences

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Alfred Deakin Research Institute (ADRI) in collaboration with the Department of English, Rajdhani College (DU) organised an International Conference entitled 'Public Diplomacy in Theory and Practice: Culture, Information and Interpretation in Australia-India Relations' on the 8th & 9th April 2011. The two days International Conference presented what academic intervention can do an expanding field of activity. Scholars from Australia and India not only shared their experiences but also provided insights into the regional and bilateral perspectives that can help in the betterment of the tasks that lie ahead in public diplomacy between our two great nations. As an essential element of foreign policy traditional public diplomacy actively engages one government with another government. And as a term 'Public Diplomacy' usually refers to governmentsponsored programmes intended to influence foreign publics. Public Diplomacy as discussed by many is all about images, ideas, perceptions, impressions and establishing a dialogue to inform foreign publics but it was clear at the end of this conference that it is about 'bridging imaginations' and 'new directions'.
Dr Vijay Laxmi Pandit is Principal of Rajdhani College (University of Delhi), New Delhi. Recently she was nominated as the Member of the Expert Committee constituted by the UGC to assess the Eleventh Plan financial requirements of the colleges affiliated to various Indian universities. She is also the Book Reviews Editor of the information Journal, being brought out by the IPSA’s Research Committee on Political Socialization and Political Education. She has a PhD in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Dr S. A. Jafri is Associate Professor in the Department of English at Rajdhani College, University of Delhi, New Delhi. He has authored three books: W. Somerset Maugham A Short Story Writer with a Singular Aim to Please A Review of His Craft and Characterization in Relation to His Own Critical Views about Fiction and the Short Stories; The Life and Works of Sa’adat Hasan Manto, a critical and analytical study of Manto’s work along with a creative and idiomatic translation (from Urdu to English) of 12 of his well known stories; and Creative and idiomatic translation of Shankar’s “Folk tales - retold” from English to Urdu. He was also the Joint Secretary of Delhi University Teacher’s Association (2009-2011).