

## **Shimla Round Table:**

A Russian delegation of seventeen people headed by O. A. Urozhenko visited the Institute in the month of October for organizing '*Shimla Round Table*'. The Round Table was organized to evolve possibility of establishing collaboration with the Russian Federation for working on commonly identified thematic areas. The Round table was the part of VIII International Social and Scientific Forum dedicated to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Roerich pact which was organized from October 22- November 5, 2010.

The delegation consisted of eminent professors and heads of different research and academic institutions from Russia. Prof. Sunil Kumar Gupta, Vice-Chancellor of the University welcomed the delegation and expressed his vision of having a fruitful collaboration. He said that coming of any foreign with an aim of promoting research and academics should be based on mutual understanding and should be for the benefit of communities of the countries involved. Prof. S. P. Bansal, Director of the Institute honored the delegation and expressed his will of collaborative research. Prof. Bansal enlightened them with the activities of the Institute and also proposed the areas identified for collaborative research. Chiryaryev Mikhail, Scientific Secretary of the ICR Academic Council and Vice-President of the International League for the Protection of Culture and Delegation Head, O.A. Urozhenko jointly gave a brief introduction of the activities undertaken by the International Council of Roerich Organization including those undertaken by the URUSVATI museum Kullu. This was followed by a presentation by Andrai V. Ivanv and Mikhail Yu. Shishin on issues of concern in the Altai region. After this, an informal discussion-cum-interaction session was organized with the research staff of the Institute for arriving at areas of mutual concern. The delegation come up with the ideas of undertaking collaborative research in the fields of biodiversity conservation, environment, conservation of culture, climate change, objects of natural heritage, UNESCO protected areas, documentation of rare manuscripts, scientific study of aromatic and medicinal plants and conventional aspects of health care systems.