

## Arriving in India and Travelling to RUCHI

The following information will assist arriving volunteers and visitors in the reaching RUCHI complex.

Delhi's Indira Gandhi Airport is the closest port of entry to RUCHI. Unless you plan to travel immediately from the airport to RUCHI, you will need to arrange accommodation in Delhi. Well known guide books such as Lonely Planet and Rough Guide provide accommodation details for all budgets. It is recommended that you book a room in a hotel for the first night that offers an airport pick up.

### For movements from Delhi airport to the train station

Pre-paid taxis are the recommended means of travel from the airport to your accommodation or train station. The cost of a taxi (yellow and black) from international airport to New Delhi railway station is about INR 350. There is 25% surcharge on that if the travel is done during 11 PM and 5 AM. There are pre-paid counters at the arrival hall (one immediately once through customs, after the passage through green or red channel and the other one outside the arrival hall). Pre-paid taxi booths are located inside and outside of the airport arrival hall (look for the signs). I prefer the outside one and there is no cheating at these pre-paid counters. Ignore the drivers around you saying they can drive you cheaper or faster because often these drivers will take you to a friend's hotel saying your one burnt down!

New Delhi train station is about 45 minutes ride from the airport.

Reaching the RUCHI campus will not be straightforward for first time volunteers and visitors, as the small village of Bandh in which RUCHI is located is not widely known, However the nearby towns of Chandigarh and Kalka are along main road and rail transport routes, and can easily be reached by bus or train. RUCHI staff can then pick you up from either of these towns, on request and at your cost, and transport you to the RUCHI complex.

### Trains from Delhi to Chandigarh

Below is a list of trains from Delhi to Chandigarh (confirm times with station). All trains except the Jan Shatabdi Express continue on to Kalka (a further one hour from Chandigarh by train). Seats on these trains will need to be booked at least one day in advance, from the station of departure. If you are early at the station you can easily get tickets for these trains on the day at the **current counter**. It is only in peak season that one should buy tickets in advance.

The only advice I can give to you is to avoid agents/pimps who might surround you at the railway station and try to persuade you to take a taxi to Kalka/Chandigarh saying that all trains are full or your train is cancelled or your ticket is not genuine or.... If you need assistance please contact railway officials.

<b>Train #</b>	<b>Train Name</b>	<b>Station</b>	<b>Departs</b>	<b>Arrives (Chandigarh)</b>
4095	Himalayn Queen	New Delhi	05:50	10:25
2011	Kalka Shatabadi	New Delhi	07:40	11:05
2925A	Paschim Express	New Delhi	11:10	15:45
2057	CDG Jan Shatabadi	New Delhi	15:00	19:15
2005	Kalka Shatabadi	New Delhi	17:25	20:45
2311	Howrah Delhi Kalka Mail	Old Delhi	21:40	03:15

Shatabadi train always leaves from Platform No. 1 and is more expensive by Rs. 150 than the Himalayan Queen. It will cost approximately INR 450 (US\$10) for Chandigarh. You will need to call the RUCHI offices in advance to advise your time of arrival in Chandigarh or Kalka - Phone 01792-207002-3 or cell 09418093517 (Mr. Navneet Gupta), 09418739500 (Mr. Dharamvir Singh). There are STD/ISD/PCO booths located everywhere in Delhi, just look for the signs. There is a meter to monitor the cost of the call, but it will not be expensive (approximately Rs. 1.50 per minute).

Alternatively if you do not get on the train you should take a 3 wheel auto rickshaw from outside the railway station and head for ISBT Kashmere Gate (or Kashmeri Gate), Delhi (Cost-INR 50) where you can board the Bus (Platform 5 and 6) for Chandigarh. These do not need to be booked. Standard public buses leave for Chandigarh every 10 minutes (cost 150 rupees). Deluxe air conditioned buses leave every half hour. Deluxe buses are comfortable, swift (5 hours to Chandigarh) and cost approximately 400 rupees. The Deluxe bus is the recommended option compared to the Standard public bus to Chandigarh.

For movements within Delhi (e.g. to bus and train stations) the yellow and green auto-rickshaws are often the best choice. Use one with a working meter, or negotiate the price beforehand.

#### Travelling all the way to the RUCHI

Below is a map to assist those people confident in travelling all the way to the RUCHI complex themselves. There are frequent buses travelling north to Kalka/Solan/Shimla etc., leaving from the Chandigarh bus station. There are two main options:

1. Take a bus north, and exit at Parwanoo. Then catch another bus to Patta. From Patta you can catch another bus to Bandh and RUCHI, but these buses are less frequent. It is 5km from Patta to Bandh, and the RUCHI complex is a further 1km along the road.
2. Take a bus north, and exit at Pinjore. Take a bus/taxi to Barotiwala, and from here catch a bus to Patta. Then as in 1. above.

