**3 \* 23Kgs Suitcases**

**CLOTHES AND APPARELS**

Don't get too many t-shirts from India. Again, don't get too few either. You won't be washing your clothes for the first two weeks at least, so you need your clothes to last for at least two weeks. A general guideline for buying clothes:

1. T-shirts (round neck) - 6

2. T-shirts (collared) - 3-4

3. Jeans (stick to blue/black) – 3-4

4. Formal shirts - 6

5. Formal trousers - 6

6. Undergarments - at least 15 pairs (very important)

7. Formal suit 2-3 complete set

8. Ties 2-3

9. Shorts/three-fourths - 5-6

10. Track pants - 2-3

11. Swimming trunks - 1 (if you plan to swim after coming here)

12. Traditional dress for festivals 1-2

You will get a lot of t-shirts as freebies in many places in the university. Also you will be tempted to buy university tees (they are quite cheap at Walmart) so you won't need that many tees. You may get the t-shirts and jeans at places like Mega Mart where you typically have 'Buy 2 Get 2 Free' kind of offers, which may end up cheaper. With regard to other stuff, you may need to buy these:

1. Towels (any kind, but prefer Turkish) - 3

2. Hand towels - 3-4

3. Leather belts - 2-3

4. Belt for jeans - 1

5. Formal leather shoes - 1 pair (Black)

6. Woodland all-weather shoes - 1 pair (very important)

7. Sneakers (optional) - 1 pair

8. Sports shoes (optional) - They are very cheap in the US. You will most probably have a pair already. Wear it and come. Wait till the black Friday sales where you will get awesome pairs of shoes for cheap.

9. Sunglasses - 1 pair (any good brand is okay)

10. Socks - 6-7 pairs

11. Sweater - 1-2 good warm ones

12. A light jacket (you can get a thicker one once you land in the US)

13. A good umbrella (don't get the cheapo ones, they can't stand the wind)

14. Handkerchiefs - 12 nos.

15. Hawai slippers - 1 pair (for wearing inside the apartment)

16. Flip-flops - 1 pair (for summer and spring)

17. Bedsheets - 2

18. Blanket - 1 (optional)

19. Pillow covers - 3

20. A good wallet (leather) - 1

21. A wallet for passport

22. Shoe polish - 1 (don't get liquid, might spill during travel)

23. Shoe polishing brush - 1

24. Monkey cap - 1

**ELECTRONICS**

1. External HDD (get the portable one) - You might need this for bringing all those movies, music and files from back home. Minimum of 250-320 GB. Any brand is fine.

2. USB keyboard and mouse (optional) - gamers might need this. Even otherwise, it is a good thing to have. Get Logitech/Microsoft/Samsung/Zebronics.

3. This is strictly optional. Most probably you will already have a quad-band phone. Get a lifetime prepaid sim card from Airtel, register that number in one of the free SMS websites (like way2sms). Once you land in the US, there is no charge for incoming SMS to that number. So in case any of your friends/family want to message you/give missed call to you, they can do that for free in that number. You can reply for free using the free sms service on the website you registered with previously.

4. If you already have a laptop, you may bring that. Even if it is quite old, preserve it till black Friday. You will get super deals, both online and in-store.

5. IPod/mp3 player (optional) - You might need this if you have to wait for long times at airports. Else, get it in the US.

6. Digital Camera- Get it from India. It might be a little more expensive, but you will need it to record all those initial snaps in the US. Preferred brands are Canon, Sony and Nikon. Don't buy cameras that require AA batteries. Buy models with Li-ion batteries.

7. A good pair of headphones with mic.

8. A branded extension cord.

9. Indian pin to US pin converters - 2-3. (very important)

10. A small table clock with alarm functionality

11. A scientific calculator (very important) Casio fx991MS or fx991ES - This is damn expensive in the US.

12. A good branded decent wrist watch.

13. An extra battery for your wrist watch.

14. Blank DVDs - 4-5.

**PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS**

1. Tooth paste - one large tube.

2. Tooth brushes - 3-4

3. Soap - 1-2 bars. No use bringing lots of soap bars from India.

4. Shampoo - 1 bottle.

5. Shaving razor - A couple of disposable ones.

6. Shaving foam (don't buy cream) - 1 small can

7. Cold cream - 1 bottle

8. Vaseline - 1 bottle

9. Good clean combs - 2-3

10. Comb cleaner/old toothbrush for cleaning the combs.

11. Soap cases - 2

12. Hair oil - 2 bottles

13. Deodorant - 2 can

14. Nail cutter - 2

15. Earbuds - 1 small pack

16. Sunscreen - 1 bottle

17. Lip balm - 2 tubes

**UTENSILS AND FOOD ITEMS**

These are the most important things you need to carry from India. If you have already decided your roommates in India, then you will have the luxury of sharing/dividing items equally. All vessels should be flat bottomed, since in the US, most apartments use electric stoves.

1. Pressure cooker - 1

2. Pressure pan - 1. As far as possible, get both the cooker and the pan from the same brand so that you can interchange the gaskets and the weights.

3. Medium size kadai for cooking vegetables - 1

4. Serving spoons (of various sizes) - 3-4

5. SS Plate - 2

6. Kadai for boiling milk/water - 1

7. Knives - 3-4

8. Vegetable chopping board - 1

9. SS glasses/tumblers - 3

10. SS spoons - 3-4

11. Extra weights and gaskets for the cookers - 3

12. Chapati roller - 1

13. Butter knives - 2

14. SS forks - 2

15. Kadai for making sambar/dal - 1

16. Tea strainer - 1

17. Water bottle (preferably Tupperware) - 1

**FOOD ITEMS**

1. Ready-to-eat paste - 5-6 bottles minimum.

2. Rice - 3-4 kg for initial use

3. Maggie - 10-12 (minimum). You won't get Maggie in the US except in Indian stores.

4. Some home-made sweets for yourself as well as for seniors you need favours from.

5. Pickles - 3-4 bottles

6. Some snacks - how much ever you want, for the initial days

7. All powders - chilli, garam masala, rasam, sambar, asafoetida, other powders you use - 0.5 to 1 kg each

8. All dals that you use in cooking - 2 kg each

9. Salt and sugar - 0.5 kg each

10. Papads - 2-3 packs

11. Tamarind - 1 kg

12. Ginger-garlic paste - 2 bottles

**STATIONERY ITEMS**

You will get a lot of stationery items free at various places in the university (career fairs, orientation, etc) so don't bring too many stuff.

1. Pens - 3-4

2. Notebooks - 3-4

3. Pencils - 3-4

4. Erasers - 3

5. Sharpeners - 3

6. Key chains - 2

7. Staple machine - 1

8. Pins - 2 boxes

9. Glue sticks - 2

10. Markers - 2

11. Highlighters - 1

12. A4 sheets – 25 pages

13. Small ruler - 1

14. Phone book - 1. Keep all your friends' and relatives' phone numbers beforehand in it

15. Cellophane tape - 1 roll

**MEDICINES**

These are very important since for getting any specialized medicine in the US, you need a prescription.

1. Cold, Fever - Crocin

2. Body Pain - Crocin, Combiflam

3. Indigestion, Gastric Problems - Gelucil, Zinetac

4. Throat Infection - Erythromycin

5. Allergies - Avil .25

6. Vomiting - Avomine

7. Tooth Ache - Combiflam

8. Cold, Head Ache - Amurtanjan

9. Stomach Pain - Cyclopam

10. Diarrhea - Lopomide

11. Dizziness - Diziron

12. Sprain - Esgypyrin

13. Common Cold - Coldact, Vicks Vaporub

**BOOKS**

Textbooks are very expensive in the US, so you might as well talk to your seniors in the university, and get the important textbooks from India. Only get those books you won't be able to live without, since they might take much of your luggage allowance. Also, get those fundamental books for revision of concepts.

**OTHER THINGS BEFORE YOU LEAVE**

**PACKING**

Don't procrastinate packing till the last moment as you won't find time later, and in the tension you may miss out on some important things. Start packing early. Make sure you make a list of all stuff you are carrying. Label all the suitcases both inside and outside with both your home address in India and your university address. Include the phone numbers also. Make sure you are within the luggage allowance (you can do this by carrying the suitcase to the nearest scrap metal shop/rice mundi), though it can exceed upto 1-2 kgs.

**DOCUMENT LIST**

Here is the list of documents to be carried. It is advisable to keep one of each in one piece of luggage.

(1) Passport Xerox (5 copies)

(2) VISA Xerox (5 copies)

(3) IDP Xerox (5 copies)

(4) I-20(5 copies)

(5) Air Ticket (2 copies)

(6) Original marksheets + Degree Certificate

(7) Attested marksheets + Degree Certificate (3 copies)

(8 Original transcripts + Degree Certificate (3 copies)

(9) Immunization form(specific to university)

(10) University specific letters like admit, aid, forms.

(11) SEVIS fee receipt (3 copies)

(12) GMAT Original + Xerox copies(5 copies)

(13) TOEFL Original + Xerox copies(5 copies)

(14) Work Ex Letter

(15) Syllabus Copies

(16) Recommendations Letters

(17) Any other Relevant Papers

Keep your original documents with you in the hand luggage and not in the check-in. Keep everything neatly organized so that you won't have to search for anything in case you need something during travel. Keep your passport always within reach of your hand. Get a wallet for your passport (you can get it from Witco)

**IDP (International Driving Permit)**

It is entirely up to you to get the IDP or not. It doesn't cost much, and may be useful for renting cars. So no harm in getting it done. It might also serve as an ID.

**Carrying currency**

This is a very important issue, and many people have doubts regarding this. About $500 in cash and rest in travellers’ checks around $1000, which you could cash at a local bank. Exactly how much money you would need totally depends on where you are going. If you are going to a small town then anything from $400 to $500 should be enough. But if you will live in a city close to the downtown then the cost would be $1000 to $1200. Research on the college website for costs should give you a good indication. You may also choose to carry cash in the form of travel cards, like Axis bank Card (for Indore call Amit at 9826062165, it is really good)

Get a lot of quarters (at least for $10) from a local money changer/bank in India. This is useful for anything from Coke to washing clothes to getting carts at airports. Take some $5 and $10 bills too. For tuition fee, you can either carry a DD, or ask your parents to wire the money directly to the university. These are the two safest options. Make sure you get the DD in the university's name and not your name. Don't carry checks with you. Keep all your currency in your wallet inside the hand luggage, and not in the check-in luggage.