

FAQ on things to do *before* flying to USA

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Introduction

Usually, before anyone comes to the U.S.A. for the first time from India he/she will start talking to people who have been here before and get information from them about what to expect, what to do etc. Though this gives some idea it doesn't make one confident or better prepared and moreover how much can one absorb at once.

So we felt the need for a small, informal document which anyone could read before he/she flies to the U.S.A. The objective of this document is to make you aware of things that one needs to do in India before he flies, things worth purchasing in India (and not worth purchasing in India also), and other procedures/formalities, situations to expect and enlighten you with facts so you can be comfortable once you get there.

This friendly document will guide you for your shopping in the India. You will be better prepared for the trip if you read this document before going. Some of the things may just seem common-sense, but remember that it may not seem so common to some other reader of this document. This is just out of our experience and should be considered as an advice rather than final authoritative statements, which may be arguable.

We want you to enjoy your trip to the U.S. as much as possible. You bet. All the best!! :-)

THINGS TO KNOW FROM YOUR BODYSHOPPER

Express Computer/Data Quest/Internet are best places to get address/e-mails of body shoppers.

Body shoppers in India fall in one of the following categories:

1. front-ending other US body shoppers(called consultants) in US who again sends you to his clients on contract.
2. Having sister concern company doing body shopping in US (like CMC and BRI).
3. front-ending US clients directly.

Findout what kind of body shopper you are interacting with.

You could be in one of the following categories. The figures in bracket are for a 2 years experienced programmer and these figures are very conservative. You must get this much:

1. a SAP programmer (60K+)
2. a DBA/Sys Administrator (50K+)
3. a Y2K programmer(48K+)
4. a client/server, front-end, Unix-C/C++ programmer (40K+).

All of these bodyshoppers try to keep a huge database of people which is sorted on following params:

1. Skill
2. Experience(Total/ platform of proficiency)
3. Preferences(in geographic location/other things).

Send them your bio-data by post. They all prefer e-mail since they get a softcopy which can be modified(!)/remailed to US. Do not forget to mention your Residence Phone no. The most important thing in CV is total experience and experience in platform you are most proficient in. Make sure you write this figure in intro. paragraph as well as in covering letter. Also mention your platform of choice very very clearly.

After they receive this they first try to find out genuinity of facts given and your interest in going on international assignment. They will call you and ask you to come to their office and give you a rosy picture of their firm. Try to find out from them about:

1. People he has sent abroad in last three months. Their platforms/Locations.
2. Which of the three category he falls into.
3. How old is he in this business.
4. What things he keeps as security before starting your visa processing.
5. Other things
- 6.

He in turn try to talk to you about your experience/expectations/preferences. Read your CV just before meeting him and don't make contradictory statements. Please mind your body language. Never touch your nose while talking to him etc. Try and give him confidence that you DO want to go, you will not ditch him, you don't have any other family problem in family/office that can stop you from flying even if H1 arrives. After this he will try and take your tech. interview if he is capable of doing so or he will directly arrange an interview with US client/US consultant. Remember that tech. interview with Indian office person will always be more tough than US consultant/client. While giving interview on phone remember following things:

1. Try and learn American accent (by listening to Voice of America or CNN News) and talk in that accent.
2. Talk slowly. On international calls, delay is anyway a major problem
3. Try to use OVER protocol. Try to say OVER after you have finished talking. Also acknowledgement is very important to Americans, try to say "I understand, I got it, I see" etc. at right pause of his.
4. Don't ask questions like how much you will pay me, to a tech guy.

If selected find out the following things from him:

1. Platform of work.(it may not be same as one in which you are proficient)
2. Location of US consultant.(for state tax applicable to you)
3. Location of US client (for Cost of Living Calculation)
4. Gross Salary/Net Salary (is it flat for first year or different for two 6 months?)
5. Bond(duration and penalty)
6. Bench period pay/facilities.
7. Medical Insurance
8. Dental Insurance
9. 401K retirement plan

10. Project Incentives
11. Cost of Passage from India to US(for family)
12. Cost of Passage from US consultant to US client
- 13.

GETTING YOUR H1 STAMPED THROUGH CMC DELHI.

=====

Shivram Ayyer gives xerox of H1-B BRI papers, return ticket to Delhi, xerox of filled visa application form. Carry passport, two coloured photos of 1.5" X 1.5" (37mm x 37 mm), two DDs of 720/- and 3600/- (Favouring American Embassy, Delhi payable at Delhi), originals of ICSE, ISC, Degree of B. Tech. (Computer Science & Engg.), Marksheets of all four years of B. Tech., employment letter of CMC for proof of address. Indian Airlines IC 181 (Mumbai Santa Cruz Terminal 1A 06:45 to Delhi Palam Airport Arrival 08:40). You should reach the airport at least one hour in advance. There is a no-baggage check-in counter also. Collect your boarding pass by showing your ticket, take the tag and attach it with your handbag. The boarding pass indicates whether you should board from the front or rear exit. Go at the Security Check counter to undergo a metal detection test. As soon as the indicator in the display changes to Boarding, form a queue at the indicated Gate No. Sit in the Airbus of your flight and board the plane.

Once in Delhi, go to the prepaid Taxi Counter (It costs Rs. 126 from Palam Airport to 1, Ring Road, Kilokri, Maharani Bagh (MB), New Delhi - 110 049.) Sit in Black and Yellow Cab. In Delhi, talk with the Taxi-wallah about day to day events and politics. There are no pre-paid Rickshaws available. If you don't know the routes of Delhi, it is better to take a prepaid taxi. The taxi-wallahs and rickshaw-wallahs might fool you. Remember to pay the Taxi-wallah a bakhshish (a tip which they always ask for.) In case of any problems, you can always contact Delhi Traffic Police man. Contact Mr. Inderjeet Mohindra in the Delhi office. Fill the form of visa application. Staple the original H1-B at the back of the passport. Take the letter of CMC addressed to Ms. Alka Saxena/ Ms. Jyoti Kamra. Remember your height in cms., Complexion and Identifying Mark. You can take a xerox of the filled visa application form from the Xerox Room. You should know how to operate the Canon xerox machine. Staple your photo on the visa form and keep the two drafts along with them. Write the address and telephone no. at the back of the two drafts (I wrote CMC Bombay's address and office no. : the address which I wrote in the Bank Drafts of Canara Bank.) Try to reach the American Embassy, Nyaya Marg (near Shanti Path) by 11:00. At the counsalate tell the Security that you want to meet Ms. Alka Saxena, go past the security check. At the counter on the left side there is a cradle on the wall. Call Ms. AS or Ms. JK at extn. 2105/ 2106. If neither of them are available, talk to Mr. Bhatnagar stating that you have come from CMC. She/ He will tell you the counter to approach to. Go to that counter and hand over your papers. That person will fill a form, write a number at the top right hand corner and give you token numbers with VIP hand-written over it and the counter No. where you should come at 4:30 (most probably Counter No. 2). Go as per that number and deposit the drafts to the cashier. Take a receipt of the drafts. Go back to the Counsalate at 16:30. Call Alka, if required. She will call you at Counter No. 2 and hand you the passport with the stamped visa.

Maharani Bagh to American Embassy + waiting time 1 hour (Rs. 102)

American Embassy to Palam Airport (without meter : Rs. 100)

How to read the rickshaw and taxi fare in Delhi :

Meter reading + 75% extra. (Bakshish, if they ask for it)

Limitations :

1. If you are going by the morning flight, it might be late.
2. Mr. I. J. Mohindra might ask you to wait, which may be as long as half an hour.
3. The concerned persons might not be seated at their respective extensions in the American Embassy.
4. If there is a delay in collecting your passport+visa, you might be asked to come the next day or you might be delayed till 18:00. That is risky if your departure is at 19:00 from Palam.
5. Although, it is said that one of the three-four persons can come at 16:30 and collect the visa for others. It is advisable that all the persons be physically present. Like in Samir's case, the girl asked me to spell his surname.

Courtesy : Sandeep Mehra and Samir Ajgaonkar.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO IN INDIA:

1. Learn Driving and get driving licence. Get IDP.
2. Remove ECR from your passport if it exists.
3. Close all your other bank accounts and out the money in one account in fixed or whatever suites you.
4. Open a NRE a/c. If possible take the copy of your visa and ,they say you also need, and affidavit from the court to any bank close to your place and open an NRE account with the bank. You will have to ask the bank for the exact procedure. Inquire about it beforehand to avoid surprises at the last moment. Most people open it because of the high interest rate in this account . But you can't withdraw money from this account till six months or so. Usually people give an authority letter to somebody back home to operate that account. This thing usually is not possible because most of us fly the same week we get the visa . But some how give it a try.
5. Give power of attorney to ur family members.
6. Settle all ur instruments.
7. File I-Tax returns.
8. If possible mail to someone who has gone recently to US on same platform through same body shopper. You will be more prepared for local things and latest happenings.
9. Prepare a list of people you know in US. try to get all the details like Postal address, Resi. Phone, Office Phone, E-mail.
10. Check if your company give you some money as advance. It is necessary because you need to buy a car at most of the places here. For a second hand car (86-89) model you will have to shell out somewhere between \$2300 to \$3000. Or if you plan to stay here for five years or so then you can buy a new one between \$10000 to \$15000 in installments. But even then you need around \$1200 to \$2000 as down payment.
11. Keep a camara with you in last two days before flying. Take snaps of people with you at an appropriate location. Take these snaps to US.
12. Cut your hair to shortest, acceptable by you
13. Learn to cook.
14. Get medical checkup done
 - a) Dental. It costs so much in US that you can fly to India and come back.
 - b) Fresh checkup, especially if you have a major ailment
 - c) Get prescriptions & medicines for all common ailments from your own family doctor (the technical name of the medicine along with Indian/US brand name).
 - d) Get your eye-sight checked - get a new prescription. Buy at least one extra pair of glasses.
 - e) Get tested for TB if possible (chest x-ray) - else they will do it at the Univ. for students.
 - f) Get requisite immunization done (especially mmr)
15. Get cassettes recorded which you may like to take with you
16. Write to the India club/oips giving your flight #, time & date of arrival; they may pick you up & give temporary accommodation if necessary
17. If you are very interested in any Indian magazine (gult, Tamil, etc.) Subscribe to them - you can subscribe to them after going to the US also.
18. Note your/parent's bank a/c #
19. Visit USIS/USEFI near Churchgate, Mumbai.
20. Visit WWW.Mahesh.Com on web.
21. Keep atleast US\$50-100 in pocket. you can get this from Thomas Cook.
22. Take child's all immunisation reports with you.
23. Just relax, close your eyes and let your mind go through a journey in last year. Remember all Daily/ Weekly/ Monthly/ Annual things you do. Try to settle all of theses things. Subscriptions, Meetings...
24. There may be family/personal things that only YOU want to do before flying. Best way is to make a CHECK-LIST of things YOU want to do.

PURCHASE IN INDIA:

The carry baggage is the biggest problem while coming to U.S. What to carry? How much to carry? Do I carry more woolen clothes 'cause its cold out there?

Well, we all think, it depends !!

Don't carry too many heavy utensils, cooker etc. You can buy most of the utensils there. They are not costly and you don't have to carry much.

You can carry some spices with you if you want to, because after going there you may start missing the Indian food taste.

Don't carry too many warm clothes (unless you are going there in winter), or sports shoes etc. It would be better if you buy them after going there. That way you can buy the latest style. But you should carry leather shoes from India, since leather items are costly in the U.S.

Rest, it all depends on you and your needs !!

The following list is exhaustive, cut off whatever you don't need.

Items	Qty/Specs	Price(Aug'97)		Remarks
		USA(US\$)	India(Rs.)	
Handbag	1			
Large Bag	1/30"			
Waist pouch	1/use in flight			
Small and handy pouch or leather case		\$25		
Large Bag	1/32"			
Cooker having flat vessels with extra rubber and safety valves	1/? litters			
Vessels	2/Flat bottom			
Tea Vessel	1/Flat bottom			
Tea net				
Frying Pan				
Big spoon for pouring dal				
WaterBag				
Thermos(?)				
Plates(Full/Half/Quarter.)				
Glass				
Spoons(Table/Tea/Serving)				
Pressure Pan				
Extra Gasket				
SaucePan				
Kitchen Knife/Butter Knife/ Fork				

& Knife/ Fruit Knife				
MatchBox				
Bowls				
Coffee Mug				
Drinking Glass				
Bottle / Can Opener				
Belan (roti-maker)				
Tiffin/Lunchbox				
Kadai				
<hr/>				
Suit				
Blazers				
Formal Trousers	6/Black-Brown			
InformalTrousers	6			
Formal Shirts	6			
T-shirts	6			
Shorts	6			
Undies/ Banyans	12 each			
Handkerchiefs	12			
Ties(silk?)	4			
Socks	12/ blue, black, brown			
Belt (formal & casual for jeans)	2 Each			
Jeans	3			
Winter clothes				
Sweaters(Full & half sleeves?) ?				
Sweatshirts ?				
Trackpant(?) ?				
Lather Jacket(?)				
Gloves(woolen and leather?)				
Overcoat/Parka				
Kurta/Payjamas				
Napkins				
Cuflink(?)				
Bath Towels				
Goggles				
Cap				
Belt(formal & casual for jeans)				
Shirt Buttons / Pant Hooks/				
Mufflers				
<hr/>				
Bed Sheet				
Blanket				

Pillow+cover				
Shoes(black,brown ,sneakers,Leather,S ports) ?				
slippers(rubber & leather)				
ShoeLace				
Shoebush/ cloth				
Liquid Polish				
Wax Polish				
Shaving kit(more blades)				
After Shaving lotion/cologne				
Toothbrush/ ToungeCleaner				
Toothpaste				
Hair oil/cream				
Comb + Hair brush				
Vaseline				
Shampoo				
NailCutter				
Small Scissor				
Spectacles, Lenses (it is very costly in US)				
Bath Soaps				
Washing Soaps				
Talcum powder				
Surf Powder				
Scrubber				
Safety Pins				
Walkman				
Torch				
Alarm Clock				
Umbrella				
Hangers				
Clothes Clips				
Nylon Rope				
Chain & lock/key				
Sewing kit				
Key Ring				
Plastic carry bags				
Indian calender (Kalnirnay)				
Dettol/ gash				
Vicks Veporub/				

Cold - cough				
Iodex/ beating				
Candid/ scratch				
Odomas/ Mosquitoes				
Roll-on/ Cold				
Bandages + (crepe) dressing for wound				
GoodKnight Mats + Machine				
Cotton gauze				
Ear buds				
Antiseptic Liquid				
Thermometer				
Eye-Ear drops.				
Ibugesic+, Ibucon 400+	Anti pyretic(abnormal temperature and pulse) -			
Baralgan	Headache			
	Anti-inflammatory			
	Stomachache			
	Anti-emetic			
Perinorm	Nausea / giddiness			
Styemetle / Imosec (symptomatic)	Diarrhea			
Gramoneg	bacterial(1t * 4)			
Antibiotic	euroflox / norflox			
Neutrolin, Amclox (3t) Moxycelene TVICYL 250 mg	Broad spectrum antibiotic(5 day course)			
	Anti-allergic			
Drystan	(for nasal allergic cold)			
terfed	decongestant			
Calmpose	Sleeping			
B complex, Vitamin C, Liv 52				
Incidal	Skin allergies			
Gramogyl (2t*3	bacterial+amoebic			
Note Pad				
Pens/ Pencils/ Eraser/ Ruler				
Stapler/ PaperClips				
Cello Tape				
Gum				
Required Computer books				
Sugar				

Salt				
All Spices				
Dhania				
Lal mirch				
Haldi				
Tur Daal				
Rice				
Jeera				
Rai				
Hing				
Kala Mirch				
Methi				
Mirch				
Mirchi Powder				
Tamann(?)				
Udad Daal				
Pickles				
Haldi				
Garam Masala Powder		\$5 per 250gms		
Tea Packets (Teas bags)				
Nascafe Packet				
Tea Strainer				
Saunf (Post-lunch)				
Ghee				
Passport				
Forte Documents				
CMC Documents				
Telephone Book				
Books & Cassettes		\$2.5-\$2.99 per cassette		
Photo Album				
Photographs of Self (all sizes)				
International Drivers Permit (IDP)				
Original Certificates				
Air ticket				

Following things to be considered:-

1. If u r coming directly to client's place then buy some food stuff, so that initially u can cook and it should last for a week.
2. If u r coming where there are some of ur friends then no need to carry foods stuff, everything is available here.
3. If u r coming on B1 then buy only necessary items bcoz u'll be going back to India in 2/3 months time.
4. No need to buy any electrical items bcoz of Voltage difference those things can not be used in US.

5. Cold and cough are pretty common here when you are new. Definitely not with all of us but with most of us. Bring something like Roll-on etc. in bulk if you are going to stay for a period of one year or so at a stretch.
6. Iodex is also something that you could need here Hope you never need it but it helps to be on the safer side.
7. If you are going to stay alone here better bring a few utensils. Be sure that the utensils have a flat bottom as the electric grills widely used here have a flat heating coil. So a lot of electricity will be wasted and it will take too long for the dish to cook if the utensil does not have a flat bottom.
8. Include a pressure cooker in above with extra rubber and safety valves.
9. You don't get a beelan (to prepare roti) here so if you plan to prepare them bring it.
10. Bring all your woolen clothes if you are going some where close to the East-Coast.
11. A purse that can hold many credit cards and dollars of course.
12. For men bring old spice after shave if you use it. Even this isn't cheap here.
13. Although they don't allow on board, but bring Indian spices(\$5 per 250gms) and bottled pickle (whatever your favorite is) with you because one these are not widely available here and second even if they are then they are too costly(compared to Indian prices for the same thing).
14. Same with Hindi film songs cassettes. Do bring all your favorites with you(\$2.5-\$2.99 per cassette).
15. You may buy a mono or deck from here(Range \$30 to \$300 and Upwards).The upper end decks are usually bought to take them back to India.
16. Also bring a small and handy pouch or leather case to keep your passport, checkbook, and a telephone diary etc., in it because you need to carry these things almost always here, especially the passport till you get a permanent license which takes around six months (minimum). This particular thing is also costly here(\$25 upwards).
17. Do bring India style clothes/ Ornaments etc. since Indians in some parts of US meet regularly on Festivals.
18. There are a lot of things we use regularly which cost less than Rs. 36. If you were to buy the same in US, you will have to buy in bulk. So blindly pack in things like Needle, thread, paper clips, cotton etc.

Don'ts

1. You don't need to bring a stock of soaps and shampoo and things like hangers, calculator, gold items.

TIPS FOR PACKING:

Prepare a checklist of items to buy and mark items already bought.

In ur handbag following things should be packed,

- 1 formal dress
- 1 informal dress
- Shaving and brushing kit
- All documents
- Pair of undergarments
- 1 Towel and napkins
- Some medicines (including for air-sickness)
- Novel/mags/books for inflight reading
- Sweater
- Original important documents (i-20, visa, tickets ...)
- Enough money (little cash, traveler's checks)
- Address book/phone book (Indian & US)
- Copies of your photo (passport size)
- Enlisted steps to be followed in case of emergency (accident, theft, etc)
- Things to survive for a week in case luggage gets misplaced (two sets of clothes, addresses etc.)

Things to be kept on person

- Shorter extract of contact addresses - especially of people coming to pick you up.
- Receipt got along with traveler's checks - in case you lose the tc's

These are required in case flight gets delayed.

Things to be kept at home

- List of addresses/phone numbers at which information about you can be obtained
- One copy of all your important documents
- A copy of all relevant parts of Medical History files
- Arrange to collect/redirect mail from your room/hostel
- Arrange to apply/collect/mail your transcripts (about 20 in number preferable)
- Your tailoring measurements
- A few blank signed papers - so that your parents can be authorized to look after anything on your behalf

In other two large bags following things should be packed,

Distribute utensils in both bags, Wrap it with clothe, towels etc, Distribute clothings in both bags, Pack everything in new papers, Inside ur bags on the top portion write n big words following:

"Name, Address, Flight details, Final destn"

Pack everything ur self or in front of u by somebody else so that u know what's where.

Prepare bag-wise list of items packed it is useful.

PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS YOU SHOULD CARRY:

Carry ur Passport, BRI/Body Shopper papers, checklist of bag-wise items packed.

Don't bring more no. of books get only which will be required.

Get Indian calender (Kalniray) so that it's easy to relate festivals in India.

For every important document (PP, BRI Papers, Medical Insurance) prepare a zerox set.

Make sure ur Medical insurance is valid for the entire period pf ur stay if ur coming on B1.

Get all ur certificates, transcripts and other qualification documents.

Get ur Driving License along with IDP.

THINGS TO BE DONE IN THE LAST WEEK BEFORE THE FLIGHT

- Call up & find if there is any delay or change of schedule of the plane (inform the people coming to pick you up of any such change)
- Rest well - ready to face the long journey/jet lag
- Bid bye to all concerned
- Remember that you will have to do shopping/packing/telephoning etc. along with giving time to guest coming to meet you. Try and balance this.

THINGS U HAVE TO DO AFTER ENTERING IN THE AIRPORT:

Carry \$200 and Rs.1000 along with you.

You CHECK IN atleast 2 Hrs before the flight time.

Your bags will be screened.

Go to ur Airline counter. And show ur PP, Tickets.

They will weight ur baggage and put stamp on bags. Ask then to check ur bags once for all if ur flying from the same airline till ur destination.

Here u'll have to pay Rs750 as Airport Tax and u'll be filling foll. form

Govt of India - Embarkation Card
(Use capital letters only)

1. Name:

Surname:

Othernames:

2. Date of Birth(D/M/Y):
Place and Country of Birth:

3. Nationality:

4. Passport No.:
Place of Issue:
Date of Issue:

5. Address in India:

6. Port of Disembarkation:
Flight No.:

<Immigration Stamp> <Your Signature>

Then ask at the counter where to go next.
Next you will go for CUSTOMS Check.
They will ask ur PP and ask u some questions about ur journey and purpose.
Then ask at the counter where to go next.

Next you will go for SECURITY CHECK.
Here they will scan every person and their baggage.
They stamp security stamp on Baggage.
Then u have to wait till they make announcement for Boarding.

Some airlines follow certain procedures for BOARDING.
Whenever they will call you u should go. (Call on basis of Class).

Go immediately once they call you and Keep ur handbag above/near ur seat.

IN THE FLIGHT

Since it is going to be a long flight wear something comfortable (cotton dress + full hand shirt). Wear your shoes - inflight you can remove them (some airlines give inflight shoes - else relax in socks) Be at the airport 3-4 hours before flight departure Collect \$20 at the airport (part of it in \$1) Relax during flight, sleep as much as possible For vegetarians - watch out before you eat - you may get non-veg even if you had asked for veg. Veg. Food is generally bland - fruits/juice are good choices. (before ordering anything on board check if you have to pay for it separately for it). Don't hesitate to ask questions. Once out of India be very careful (from sheer experience of seniors). Don't trust anyone. Don't hire a taxi (unless emergency) till you reach your destination. If required don't hesitate to spend money. Don't hesitate to talk to people to ask questions - usually they will answer all your queries properly - very different from India.

THINGS U HAVE TO DO BEFORE LANDING IN US AIRPORT:

Before landing in US u'll have fill following two forms, which will be given by Airline prior to landing in US. Fill these forms in only capital letters. Wherever they mention TYPE or PRINT, it means write in capital letters.

<Immigration form>

Immigration and Naturalization Service

Admission Number

<number>

I-94

Arrival Record

1. Family Name

2. First Name

3. Birth Date (Day/Mo/Yr)

4. Country of Citizenship

5. Sex (male or female)

6. Passport Number

7. Airline and Flight Number

8. Country where you live

9. City where you boarded

10. City where visa was issued

11. Date Issued (Day/Mo/Yr)

12. Address while in US (Number and Street)

13. City and State

Departure Number

<number>

I-94

Departure Record

14. Family Name

15. First Name

16. Birth Date (Day/Mo/Yr)

17. Country of Citizenship

The lower portion will be given back and it should be kept in PP. It's required while going back to India.

<Customs form>

1. Family Name

2. First Name

3. Middle name

4. Birth date (Day/Mo/Yr)

5. Airline/Flight No.

6. No. of family members travelling with u

7. Country of Citizenship

Country of Residence

8. US Address (Street Number)

City and State

9. Countries visited prior to US arrival

10. The purpose of my trip was () Business () Personal

11. I am carrying fruits, plants
...etc Yes No

12. I am carrying currency or monetary
instruments over \$10,000 or foreign
currency equivalent Yes No

13. I have commercial merchandise,
US or foreign Yes No

14. The total value of all goods
including commercial merchandise is ---- 0 ----

On the reverse side you have to sign.

THINGS U HAVE TO DO AFTER LANDING IN US AIRPORT:

Ask the Airline person where to go first.

Collect ur baggage.

Then u will have to go for I-94 stamping.

2) While you check out through the US customs here, they usually give you a small piece of paper which reads "I-94 Departure Record ". It is stamped with a date which is the day till when you are supposed to stay in the US. Your stay after that day in US is illegal. In fact it is the only document to verify that you are a legal entrant in the US. So see to it that you never loose it. Better if you staple it with your passport.

They will ask for PP and BRI papers.

Here they might u some questions about ur vist and purpose.

Next ur baggage will be screened and then u can go out.

It's better to buy long distance PrePaid Telephone cards on Airport.

Next call ur contact person or friends and tell them about arival and plans.

Choose reliable mode of transaport from going to ur destination.

Taxi's are very cstly there may be Airport Bus Services (Checkout).

And it's better to ask for the direction guidelines from ur friends or contact person when ur in India itself.

Once u reach ur destination call back ur contact person and friends.

It's always advisable to keep ur watch in sync with current time zone.

If at all you lose your luggage in the airport never get out of the terminal till you file a complaint with the authorities.

MISC. QUESTIONS

1. What are the ticket rates for childern(above/below 2 years)?

2. Is it better to buy ticket from US or India.?

Do read Post-USA.Doc for things to expect in USA. Have a GALA time!