

**Lifestyle**

Delhi's consumer passions



# Top hat

## Father's Day gift guide

Brooch set by WeMakeLove, ₹775.

# Dad's the way

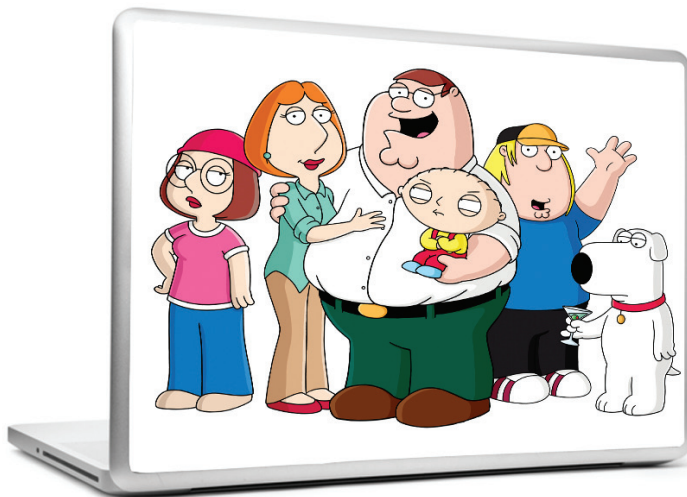
Shower your pop with some love and fun gift to match his personality this Father's Day, says **Akshita Nahar**.

Lifestyle



## Film-buff Dad

He has an extensive DVD collection and is always the first one at the theatre when a new movie hits the big screen. And yes, we know he's your hero. Why not gift him this Bollywood baddies' iPhone case (available for 4, 4S and 5) and make Mogambo happy. **Cocaine**, ₹1,230



## Couch potato Dad

Back from work, dads are often found on the couch in front of the television set watching everything from the daily news to sitcoms and movies. Why not gift him his favourite TV show-inspired merchandise from PosterGully? We recommend the *Family Guy* laptop skin with all its cool characters. **PosterGully**, ₹299

## Foodie Dad

Whether he's the "King of BBQ" or just the "Prince of Paranthas", these burger-shaped coasters are sure to be his favourite place to rest his beer mug. **TotallyHotStuff**, ₹350



## Hipster Dad

Growing your own fur is so much cooler than stealing it from animals, or so PETA and half the hipsters in the city would like us to believe. Gift your dad this handlebar moustache-shaped brooch and perhaps he might be inspired to grow his own. They also have a brooch set which includes a gentleman's hat, wayfarer, handlebar moustache and a bow tie packaged in a glass test tube. **WeMakeLove**, ₹237 for the mooch brooch, ₹775 for gentleman brooch set



## Geeky Dad

You've never really understood his obsession with *Star Wars*, even when he tried to get you to sit still and watch the entire series. Rest assured you can make sure the force remains with him with this R2-D2 lunch bag that launches into a little sound-and-light show with the press of a button. This foot-tall bag is made of food-safe, BPA-free materials insulated to keep the food warm, and will make dad the envy of other fans. **WhySoSerious**, ₹1,999



## Corporate Dad

Clocking over-time in office, family dinners interrupted by last-minute conference calls and, of course, being constantly glued to the BlackBerry – yes, you might complain he doesn't have time, but you know he's a hard-working guy. Introduce him to BombayShirtCompany, a website that lets you be your own custom-tailor. Log on and, with easy-to-follow steps, select your fabric, size (custom measurements available) and the trims (you can customise your collar, cuffs, pockets, buttons, plackets, pleats and monogram style). It'll make his life easier.

**BombayShirtCompany, gift card, ₹1,900**



## Classic Dad

Let's assume your father has a serious taste for good scotch whisky. Why not gift him the perfect place to store his single malts. Named Le Barrique, this barrel shaped bar made of mango-wood is a must have.

**HomeHero, ₹19,800**

## Sporty Dad

If the best memories you share with your father are rainy football matches or clinking pitchers of beer as your favourite team score a goal, it's time you bring the great outdoors indoor with this cool Foosball table top.

**TotallyHotStuff, ₹1,999**



## Tech Dad

Whether it's his iPad, Macbook, BlackBerry or any other fancy gizmo he uses, your dad needs help to keep the clutter away. Get him to be more organised with Mr P-green wire wraps. These little men can sort out all teething cord problems, as they wrap TV wires, charging ports, USB cords around their tiny rubber bodies. Mothers can thank us later.

**Propshop24, ₹300 each**



## Adventurous Dad

He's got a thing for high-speed mean machines, so why not boost his fast and furious fantasy with this two-day Harley Davidson tour of the city. Discovering heritage sites and cruising across the city is sure to get his big bad biker adrenaline pumping.

**DelightGifts, ₹13,000 for a two-day tour five hours each day.**



## Where to buy

**BombayShirtCompany Shop** online at [www.bombayshirts.com](http://www.bombayshirts.com).

**Cocaine Shop** online at [www.thisiscocaine.com](http://www.thisiscocaine.com).

**DelightGifts Shop** online at [www.delightgifts.in](http://www.delightgifts.in).

**HomeHero Shop** online at [www.homehero.in](http://www.homehero.in).

**PosterGully Shop** online at [www.postergully.com](http://www.postergully.com).

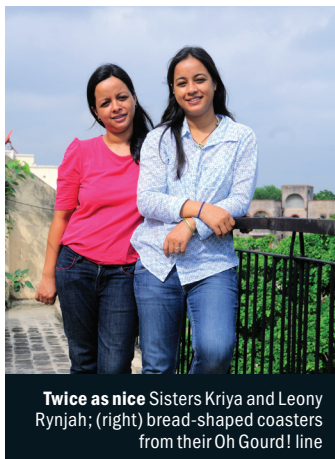
**Propshop24 Shop** online at [www.propshop24.in](http://www.propshop24.in).

**TotallyHotStuff Shop** online at [www.totallyhotstuff.in](http://www.totallyhotstuff.in).

**WeMakeLove Shop** online at [www.wemakelove.in](http://www.wemakelove.in).

**WhySoSerious Shop** online at [www.whysoserious.co.in](http://www.whysoserious.co.in).

## Meghadreams



**Twice as nice** Sisters Kriya and Leony Rynjah; (right) bread-shaped coasters from their Oh Gourd! line

Sisters Kriya and Leony Rynjah have brought the loofah – a genus of tropical and subtropical vines classified in the cucumber family – out of the bathroom, after chancing upon their mother’s handmade loofah lamp. They decided to give the material a further creative twist and created an ingenious line of products, like bread-shaped coasters, kite-shaped and bottle-shaped lamps, and some natural spa products.

Inspired by their quirky line of products and the material they use, the sisters named the label, Oh Gourd!, and later changed it to Meghadreams, when they started using bamboo and

handloom materials from their hometown Shillong.

Graphic designer Kriya is a woman of varied interests – from designing the logo for the Holi Cow Festival, launching her own design company, Fire Exit, and dabbling with metal wire to create a project called India Unwired. The move to create loofah products was only natural. Complementing her creativity is younger sister Leony, previously a chef at the Olive Bar & Kitchen.

So what inspired them to work with a dried fruit that is perceived to have little use beyond foamy baths? “In Shillong, we have a huge natural green reserve, and pineapples, bananas, bamboos and different kind of herbs are found in abundance,” said Kriya. “Even our vegetables are packaged in fresh leaves, as we say no to plastic”. “We were brought up in a very eco-friendly home where nature played an integral role in our lives. So, when we saw the beautiful lamp hanging in our kitchen, we were like, ‘Wow, that’s interesting’, and decided to work on creating newer models,” explained Kriya.

For their first collection, the Oh Gourd! products, they aimed to make things that “didn’t have anything to do with the bathroom”.

Working on all these organic products was not an easy task; the sisters had to start the project from scratch, spending months trying to learn how to treat the gourd with natural dyes and without using any chemicals.

This is where Leony stepped in and made good use of her culinary skills. “It’s not just about the creativity, it’s also about sustainability of these products,” she explained.

She began to experiment with food ingredients. She used her kitchen skills to process the merchandise, like using flour glue to hold things together, adding tumeric, food colouring and flower petals to infuse colour, and sunbaking the products to get the desired shape. So it’s little wonder that she toasted the sponge coasters on the tawa (stove) to give it the golden brown burnt bread look.

“I’m not a designer, neither of us are. But we just took the object and tried different things to see what worked. It is an interactive process to improve the product,” she said.

As Leony works behind the scenes, Kriya handles the design and marketing aspect of the brand. After various rounds of trial and error, they created products that are quirky and witty.



However, at the same time given the nature of the material, the sisters couldn’t help but cater to spa clients as well. They now also have a range of spa accessories, which combine bamboo and loofah for products such as hand scrubbers, scrubbers with handles and bamboo soap dishes. The good thing is this range is also made without chemicals, nails or glue, to ensure you have a soft, fuzzy bath. **Akshita Nahar** *Green The Gap, 24/3 Hauz Khas Village (97189-86364; www.greenthegap.com). Daily 10am-10pm. Also, shop online at www.itokri.com. Oh Gourd! line is from ₹399 to ₹699. Spa range is from ₹150 to ₹500.*

## Studio Revola

Romicon Revola sculpts large-scale installations and sculptures for tech parks, hotels and gated communities in Bangalore. Other than this, she likes to spend her time working on a small collection of “one-of-a-kind” hand-painted handbags. Revola recently took her business online, selling these handbags under the label Studio

Revola. Launched in December 2012, Studio Revola’s virtual store went live last month and offers limited edition totes with prints of artworks done by Revola’s mother, contemporary Indian artist Shan Re, and original artworks painted on clutches, sling bags and totes.

These bags are fashioned out

of stretch canvas, the kind that is used for painting, and Revola drips colourful acrylic paints onto the canvas in a spontaneous manner. “I choose a set of colours and work on a theme for about a week and then once I freeze on the patterns, this forms the base of my collection,” Revola said. “I have a tailor who then finishes off the bags.” The canvas is sturdy enough to be constructed into a functional bag and, at the same time, has a glossy texture to it, thanks to a surface coat of primer. Revola’s latest spring-themed collection is a riot of colours that she lets drip against a white canvas background. We particularly liked a blue-and-orange clutch that was embellished with circular discs, a geometric style and pattern, that ones see a lot in Revola’s smaller sculptures that litter her living room in JP Nagar. No two pieces in the original edition are alike and

Revola is not sure she can create a replica again.

Revola, who is of Italian and Indian parentage, comes from a family of artists and has apprenticed with San Francisco-based sculptor Bruce Chappel when she lived in the United States eight years ago. She also plans to introduce a range of wallets, iPad sleeves and laptop bags to Studio Revola’s inventory in the future. One of the reasons cited by Revola for turning to painting and making handbags was the fact that in her day job she had to deal with so much rigid geometry at site specific projects. “I wanted to stay away from working with metal, steel and symmetry. Instead, I wanted to explore my femininity and break away from my usual style,” she said. **Amrita Bose** *Shop online at www.studiorevola.com. Priced between ₹1,500 and ₹4,000. Cash on delivery available.*



**So stroked** Romicon Revola hand-paints her line of bags

# Check out

## Style stars



Holii has introduced a new collection of bi-fold purses dedicated to yesteryear Bollywood stars. The collection, crafted out of leather, features paisley and jasmine motifs prominently, and is dedicated to actresses such as Madhubala and Nutan. Look out for combinations of red and black, lime and green, emerald and brocade. Prices start from ₹1,095. **Holii, Ambience Mall, First Floor, Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj (4087-0031).** Visit [www.holii.in](http://www.holii.in) for a complete list of stores.



lots of greenery. Take your picks from skirts, dresses, tops and denims with digital photo prints of blooms, palm trees and tropical fronds. Cute preppy dresses, high-waisted casual shorts and printed denims are some of the highlights of this collection. Prices start from ₹1,499.

**Pepe Jeans, 10-F Inner Circle, Connaught Place (2331-1304).** ⊕ **Rajiv Chowk.** Visit [www.pepejeans.com](http://www.pepejeans.com) for a complete list of stores.

## Retro classics

Taking a step back in time, Crocs shoes has launched a new collection of old-school shoes. The iconic clog gets a vintage makeover in the form of the Retro Clog, which comes in pop colours. For those who'd much prefer daintier footwear, there's also the Retro Slingback Flats with a bit of a heel and comfortable straps. Prices start from ₹1,795. **Crocs, Select Citywalk, Second Floor, Saket (4059-7547).** ⊕ **Malviya Nagar.** Visit [www.crocsindia.com](http://www.crocsindia.com) for a complete list of stores.

## Full bloom

Pepe Jeans London's Spring Summer '13 collection channels flower power and

## Chocolate therapy

Two summer treatments have been introduced at Lakmé Salons across the city. The chocolate masque is a decadent facial that comes with anti-oxidant, moisturising properties that cocoa is known for. The Perfect Radiance ritual works at exfoliating dead skin, maintains your skin's pH balance and also acts as a sunscreen of sorts. Prices start from ₹550.

**Lakmé @ Shopper's Stop,**



**Ambience Mall, Ground Floor, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj (4087-0400; [www.shoppersstop.com](http://www.shoppersstop.com)).** Visit [www.lakmeindia.com](http://www.lakmeindia.com) for a complete list of stores.

## Print paradise

The UK-based brand has launched a summer collection called Exotic Prints, featuring garden, animal and tribal-inspired designs. The collection comprises dresses, shirts, leggings and accessories in bright colours and flowing silhouettes with exotic designs. Prices start at ₹1,699. **French Connection, Select Citywalk, Ground Floor, Saket (4059-7575).** ⊕ **Malviya Nagar.** Visit [www.frenchconnection.in](http://www.frenchconnection.in) for a complete list of stores.



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## SECRET CRUSH



If you happen to own an iPhone, you will love Delhi-based online store Cocaine's hip iPhone cases. Meant for versions 5, 4s and 4, these hard surface, scratch-free covers come with edgy designs. From late actor Amrish Puri's Mogambo in *Mr India* to a bar of half-eaten chocolate, the designs on these iPhone cases make the

case for some showing off. We especially loved Cocaine's vintage camera, cassette and Nintendo video game inspired covers. The iPhone covers have been designed with artworks submitted by budding artists from across the globe. On the cards are iPad sleeves too. **₹1,230. Manisha AR** Shop online at [www.thisiscocaine.com](http://www.thisiscocaine.com)

## Vintage Travel Journal

by Anand Prakash



Cover made with old documents, postage and revenue stamps from pre-independence British India, dating across 1870-1946.

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