

# Honey, it's the same drab gifts!

Your surplus wedding presents and cash gifts could be given for a social cause

**E**LEGANT dinner sets, six wall clocks, lots of photo frames, home decoratives, table lamps, *kumkum* boxes and so on. Oh! it's again the sundry wedding presents. What does a newly-wed couple do when they are inundated with similar wedding gifts, showered on them at the beginning of their life together? Gift them to a close relative or neatly wrap up the same present to gift a friend on his/her wedding or worst come, just pile them up at your store room.

Sadly, some of your most thoughtful gifts are of little importance to the newly-weds. Why not use it for a thoughtful cause, like Puneet Gupta and Karpita Saxena did to help Give India carry out its social activities?

Disappointed that he couldn't participate in the Mumbai Run, where he helped raise funds over Rs 5.2 lakh the previous year, Puneet, after discussing with his fiancée, decided to ask their friends to redirect their cash gifts and other presents for a cause. "We spoke to our parents and made it clear that we did not want a lavish wedding.

Two weeks

before our wedding, I sent mass e-mails to our friends and acquaintances, introducing my spouse and requesting not to bring presents for the wedding. I also wrote about why I would rather prefer gifts in cash and the purpose behind it, with a link of Give India," explains Puneet, who works as chief manager with ICICI Bank, Chennai.

Like this couple, there are quite a number of newly-weds who want to make their wedding more meaningful. They are discovering ways to incorporate charitable acts in their wedding celebration. Recently, Shaadi.com tied up with Give India, where the couple along with their friends and family members are encouraged to 'Gift a Donation' to various NGOs listed under Give India or set aside a stipulated amount from the wedding budget to donate for a cause.

Similarly, NGOs like Child Relief and You (CRY) also appeal that wedding gifts, especially in the form of money, be donated to help children. e-Bay, on the other hand, auctions the unwanted gifts through its site, a concept which is more prevalent in the UK.

Tying values with vows!

—Liffy Thomas

