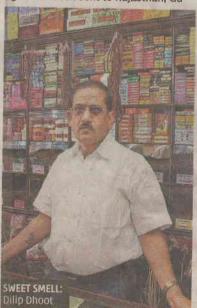


What: A shop which includes all types of puja articles ranging from agarbattis to sandalwood, attars to rudraksh, apart from a variety of perfumes.

Location: 423, Budhwar Peth, Near Pasodya Vithoba, Pune - 411002.

History: Dilip Dhoot, owner of the shop says that it was started by his father Ram Chandraji Dhoot in 1951. He used to get agarbattis from Bangalore and sell them. Later on he started with his own manufacturing unit of agarbattis. "Since childhood, I used to observe him and gradually started liking it. After completing my schooling, I had joined MBBS, but soon I realised it was not my cup of tea and in 1984 I joined this business. We have the highest variety of agarbattis ranging from Rs250 to Rs2,500. Our agarbattis are repackaged and even sent to Rajasthan, Gu-



jarat and some parts of Maharashtra. We always try to meet our customers expectations," he says.

Staff: The shop is completely run by the Dhoot family except for some helpers. His sons Ketan and Chetan who are charted accountants, help him in the business. Even his daughter-inlaw Sonal assists him in the shop along with the manufacturing unit.

Ambience: Once you enter the shop, you will be welcomed by the sweet scent of various attars and agarbattis. Find all the items neatly displayed in the shop. "Whoever comes to our shop once, always visits us again and leaves satisfied," smiles the owner.

Speciality: The shop's speciality lies in its various types of agarbattis which you won't find anywhere else. These include masala agarbattis, which are herbal and are quite famous among the patrons as it helps in concentration while meditating and its smoke is not harmful. The shop has hawan articles like karyasiddhi which includes samidha. Various fragrances of dhoop like pure rose and saffron are also available here. "We have recently launched a new brand of dhoop called Aditya positive and vibrant dhoop, which makes the environment free from viral infection and is also effective against swine flu," claims Dhoot. The shop also stocks 60 varieties of chanting (jap) mala and sandalwood.

Timings: 10 am to 9 pm, Mondays closed.

Parking: Available.

Verdict: If you're looking for any kind of puja articles from *agarbatti* to *dhoop*, then head straight to this shop and you will surely leave satisfied.

-Compiled by Priyanka Naithani