



old curiosity shop
RR DHOOT & SONS

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 chartered accountants, help him in the business. Even his daughter-in-law 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



SWEET SMELL:
Dilip Dhoot

