



Sweet smart

It's the festive season and we believe the eco-friendly way to light someone up involves a box of mithai. Here's a sample of the delights offered by Mumbai's favourite mithaiwalas. **GUIDE Deepanjana Pal. Photography Vikas Munipalle**



American Dry Fruit Stores

Ask for directions to a building in the Flora Fountain area and, more often than not, you'll be told where it is in relation to American Dry Fruit Stores. Established in 1932, the shop got its name because back then, it was one of the few places where one got international food brands. Today, imported goods are all over the place, so American Dry Fruit Stores is the store for trusty Diwali sweets.

During Diwali, the store has a steady customer base but most of its business comes from making corporate gifts, which is fitting since the store founded the practice of gifting dry fruits for Diwali – or so claims proprietor Dilip Thakkar.

Gold boxes, fancy boxes, pink cardboard boxes – they're all being packed at American Dry Fruit Stores. Looking for something a little different from the usual platters? Try one of the glass bowls. Or maybe silver meets your mettle. The gift packs are available at a range of prices (Rs 150-Rs 3,600 for six silver bowls with dry fruits in them). If the shelves lined with dry fruits don't tempt you, the mithai made of dry fruit certainly will. American Dry Fruit Stores is known for its kaju barfi, badam rotlas and some exotic stuff they make with apricots.

369 DN Road, Flora Fountain, Fort (2204-1515). Mon-Sat 9am-8pm