Interesting facts (About an Akash Deep or sky lantern)

1. What did Akash Deep (or sky lantern) symbolize?

The Akash Deep (or Sky lantern) symbolizes the conquest of light over darkness. It is believed to attract prosperity, wealth, divine grace, and the blessing of ancestors.

2. When was the tradition of lighting an Akash Deep (or Sky lantern) started?

There are multiple stories about the origin of Akash Deep. According to one story, the tradition of lighting an Akash Deep began at the end of the **Kurukshetra war,** which lasted about 18 days. It was used to honor the souls of the dead soldiers. Another theory is that the concept of Akash Deep originated in the **Tretayuga**, and it was first lit in **Ayodhya** to celebrate the return of **King Ram** after his exile.

3. What was the shape of the original Akash Deep?

The traditional Akash Deep was a clay pot with a lamp inside that was lit with ghee. The light from the lamp spread through circular holes, illuminating the surroundings. Traditionally, the Akash Deep was kept outside during the Diwali festival and was hung from a bamboo pole. Nowadays, Akash Deeps come in many different shapes, including stars, globes, hexagonal, cubical and cylindrical designs. Frames for modern Akash Deeps are made from materials like bamboo sticks, thin wooden dowels, or cardboard strips, brass, aluminum, iron, or steel and are enclosed with translucent colored paper, such as tissue, handmade, recycled, or kite paper. Today, electric bulbs are used instead of ghee light.

4. Can you tell me what language the name Akash Deep (Sky lantern) originated from?

The term Akash Deep originated from a combination of two different Sanskrit words, Akash, which means sky, and Deep, which means lamp, which together mean "light of the sky."

5. In which festival is there a tradition of lighting an Akash Deep?

In India, there is a tradition of lighting an Akash Deep during the Diwali festival. The lighting of the Akash Deep is observed throughout the Kartik month and begins around Kartik Purnima.

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