VESAK LANTERN

Introduction

- Vesak, also known as Buddha Purnima or Buddha Day, is a significant Buddhist festival celebrated around the world, including in Sri Lanka.

- It commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Lord Buddha. One of the most beautiful traditions during Vesak is the lighting of lanterns, symbolizing the light of wisdom and enlightenment that Buddha brought to the world.

- Making Vesak lanterns is a cherished activity, bringing communities together to create stunning displays of light and colour.

Materials

- Cardboard or stiff paper

- Scissors

- Ruler

- Pencil

- Glue or tape

- Decorative materials (such as colored tissue paper, glitter, markers, stickers, etc.)

- LED candle or tea light (for safety)

Step 1: Design your Lantern

- Use your ruler and pencil to draw a square or rectangular shape on the cardboard or stiff paper. This will be the base of your lantern.

- Next, draw the design for your lantern on the cardboard. Traditional designs often feature intricate patterns inspired by Buddhist symbols such as lotus flowers, Bodhi leaves, or Dhamma wheels. You can also get creative and design your own patterns or motifs

Step 2: Cut Out the Lantern

- Carefully cut along the lines of your design using scissors. Make sure to leave some space along the edges to maintain the structural integrity of the lantern.

Step 3: Fold the Lantern

- Use your ruler to make creases along the edges of the cardboard where you will fold to create the lantern's shape.

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- Traditional lanterns often have four sides, so you may need to make three creases to create the sides of the lantern.

Step 4: Decorate the Lantern

- Once you have folded the cardboard into a lantern shape, it's time to decorate! Use coloured tissue paper, glitter, markers, stickers, or any other decorative materials you have to embellish your lantern.

- Traditional Vesak lanterns are often adorned with vibrant colors and intricate designs.

Step 5: Attach the Handle

- Cut a strip of cardboard or paper to create the handle for your lantern. This will allow you to hang or carry the lantern.

- Attach the handle to the top edges of the lantern using glue or tape.

- Make sure it is securely fastened so you can hang your lantern without it falling apart

Step 6: Insert the LED Candle

- For safety reasons, it's best to use an LED candle or tea light instead of an open flame. Place the LED candle inside the lantern, making sure it is secure and won't topple over.

Step 7: Display Your Lantern

- Once your lantern is complete, find a special place to display it during Vesak. You can hang it outside your home, in a garden, or bring it to a community Vesak lantern parade or display.