

Feedback on the name of DIYA EMOJI

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1 Introduction

This document gives feedback on the name of DIYA EMOJI.

Background documents

- Proposal to encode the DIYA emoji (L2/17-356)
- Emoji Subcommittee Report Q3, 2017 (L2/17-380R)

2 Description

L2/17-356 proposed the name DIYA for the emoji . DIYA is a lamp used in India and other South Asian countries as a symbol of benevolence, purity, knowledge, peace, and divinity. It has major significance on the occasion of Dīvālī or Dīpāvalī and other ceremonies like Kārttikai Dīpam and Dīpotsavas held in month of Kārttika. Dīpāvalī is a major and most popular festival to 1.2 billion people from the Hindu, Sikh, Jain, and Buddhist communities worldwide.

But Emoji Subcommittee recommended that the name be changed to OIL LAMP.

In our opinion OIL LAMP is too generic and can be applied to various oil lamps such as lantern or Aladdin lamp.

3 Identification

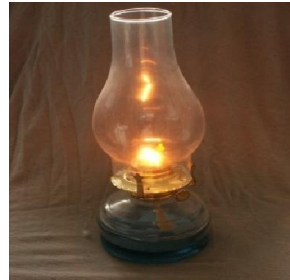
Diyā and *Dīpa* are the commonly used names to represent this object. The name *diyā* is common in North Indian languages like Hindi whereas *dīpa/dīpam* is commonly used in Sanskrit and South Indian languages. Of the terms *diyā* and *dīpa*, the *diyā* occurs more commonly in English.

Both the names Deepavali and Diwali are widely used in the English language and literature.

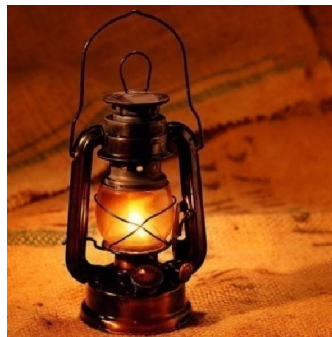
As said earlier OIL LAMP is generic name and does not fully signify this object. Ghee (a class of clarified butter) is also often used in addition to vegetable oil for *diyā*.

Oil lamp can have various representations given below.

- Oil lamps used for illumination.



- Lanterns



- Aladdin lamps



Various types of oil lamps used in India often made of silver or brass.



These lamps are generic and used in many occasions and are not specifically associated with Deepavali.

4 Recommendations

The identifier Oil lamp is generic and implementers may chose use any glyph for this emoji such as an Aladdin lamp or lantern generally depicted without a flame, hence the name OIL LAMP is not appropriate. Thus not fulfilling the objective of this emoji and its use for Deepavali. The purpose of this emoji and requests made on Twitter is for the ceremonies majorly Deepavali. Though in India there are various lamps which use oil/ghee, metal lamps are generic and used in the many occasions. For Deepavali and Deepotsavas, the *diyās* made of made of fired clay are mostly commonly used, which is the recommended glyph.

If the name DIYA is not satisfactory, the names DIWALI LAMP or DEEPAVALI LAMP are also acceptable for this emoji. Diya, Diwali and Deepavali are part of the global English lexicon and these words are listed in Oxford English Dictionary.

The names in decreasing order of importance for this emoji are listed below.

- DIYA
- DEEPAVALI LAMP
- DIWALI LAMP
- EARTHEN LAMP
- CLAY LAMP