

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Received a Daruma Doll

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a traditional Daruma doll from the Chief Priest of the Shorinzan Daruma-Ji temple, Rev Seishi Hirose, during a two-day visit to Japan. The gift was intended to reaffirm the strong cultural and spiritual ties between the two nations.

Significance of the gift

- **Cultural symbol:** The Daruma doll is an iconic Japanese cultural symbol representing perseverance, resilience, and good luck.
- **Indian roots:** The doll is modeled after Bodhidharma, a 5th-century Indian monk from Kanchipuram who is regarded as the founder of Zen Buddhism in Japan.
- **"Fall seven times, get up eight":** Its rounded shape and weighted base cause it to always return to an upright position. This embodies the Japanese proverb Nanakorobi yaoki ("fall seven times, get up eight"), symbolizing resilience.
- **Goal setting:** In Japanese tradition, one eye is filled in when a person sets a goal or makes a wish, and the second eye is filled in only after the goal is achieved.

Details of the visit

- **Purpose:** PM Modi's visit was intended to strengthen the civilizational and cultural bonds between India and Japan.
- **Other meetings:** While in Tokyo, the Prime Minister also met with former Japanese Prime Ministers Yoshihide Suga and Fumio Kishida.
- **Economic forum:** He addressed the India-Japan Economic Forum, where he called for deeper collaboration in technology, green energy, and other sectors.
- **Other gifts:** During his trip, PM Modi also exchanged gifts with his Japanese counterpart. He gave ramen bowls and chopsticks to the Japanese Prime Minister and a Pashmina shawl to his wife.

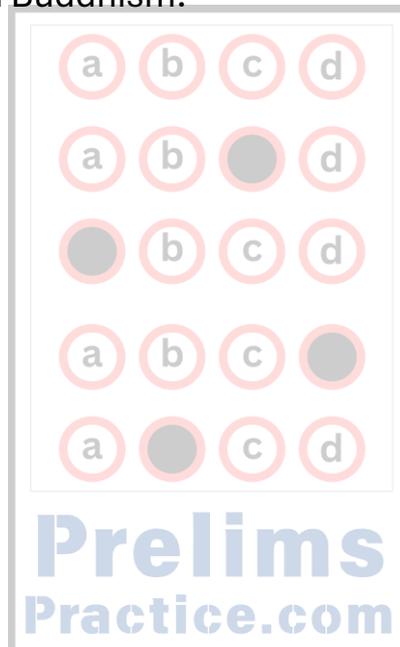
Practice Questions:

1. The Daruma Doll, an important cultural symbol in Japan with roots in Indian Buddhism, is a papier-mâché figurine modeled after which Indian monk?

- a) Ashoka
- b) Bodhidharma
- c) Nagarjuna
- d) Xuanzang

Answer: b

Explanation: The Daruma doll is modeled after **Bodhidharma**, an Indian monk from Kanchipuram who is believed to have traveled to China to spread Buddhism and is regarded as the founder of Zen Buddhism.



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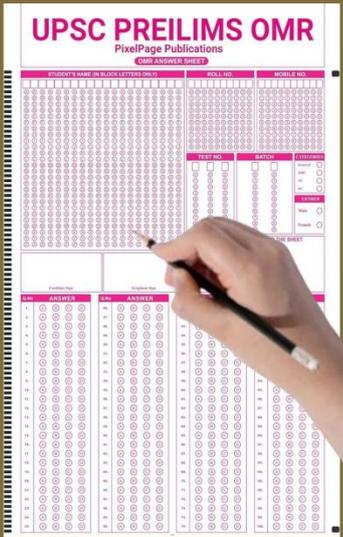
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