



**In Japan, it's common to find QR codes on cemetery headstones. The code leads to a video on the person's life.**



indiatoday

FOLLOW

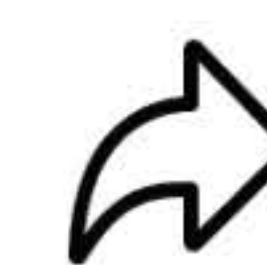
## Fact Check: Is this a QR code-enabled graveyard in Japan?

An image of a woman scanning a QR code on a gravestone-like structure has gone viral on social media with claims that the image is from graves in Japan.

BY CHAYAN KUNDU

15 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 19:20 • 2 -MIN READ

An image of a woman scanning a QR code on a **gravestone-like structure** has gone viral with the claim that there are **graves in Japan** with QR codes, scanning which one can get information on the deceased's life.



MORE FROM  
India Today →



# QR codes on headstones in Japan since 2008

However, according to an [article](#) by Pacific Standard, a US magazine, "QR codes premiered in the Japanese market in 1994 and found their way onto tombstones in 2008".

The QR codes on these real graves lead to a website with photos and information about the deceased and "allow for users to give virtual gifts, like food, incense, or a Buddhist funeral chant".

The [article](#) drew on the work of academic [Candi Cann](#), whose "research focuses on death and dying, and the impact of remembering (and forgetting) in shaping how lives are recalled, remembered, and celebrated".

Cann [wrote](#) that "the coding expands the traditional limitations of physical space, meaning if family members are unable to travel to the grave site, they can access the same virtual page through the Internet. While, traditionally, Japanese families keep a small altar honoring their dead for a year, the virtual altar shifts 'the physical necessity of a household altar to the virtual realm'".

Reuters, reporting on the same trend in 2008, [suggested](#) that the QR code "offers connectivity" to the deceased long after they have died.

13:06



Facts & Quotes



**Ryu Miyata**

Never heard of it. The pic is not even Japanese cemetery headstones. A few people would have done it as a novel idea but have never been common thing.

1w Like Reply

41



**Giuseppe Anastasi** Ryu Miyata thanks Ryu

[View 4 more replies...](#)



**Malcome Larcens**

Total BS, there is no such thing in Japan. The funeral industry is a very traditional industry.

1w Like Reply

44



**Malcome Larcens** Lived here 16 years, nev...

[View 4 more replies...](#)



**Achiever Akshaya**

It's fake & it's not from Japan

<https://www.indiatoday.in/fact-check/story/fact-check-qr-code-graveyard-japan-1853260-2021-09-15>

INDIA TODAY FACT CHECK



**Claim**  
These graves in Japan are equipped with QR codes, scanning which one can get information about the deceased's life.

**Conclusion**



Write a comment...

