

Editorial

Art and the streets

Street art seems to have taken Indian cities by storm. Yet, on scratching the painted surface, you will see the genre teeming with contradictions. While deriving its interventionist nature from the subcultural art form of graffiti, street art, as we know it today, detaches itself stylistically and methodologically from the former. In the last decade, India has witnessed a State-commissioned art movement that responds to neoliberal public policy and the financialisation of cities. Interestingly, the movement makes sure to attach itself to the 'tactical' ways that American hip-hop graffiti had adopted and relied on. It is from this strategic stance that contemporary street art, often termed 'post-graffiti', derives its conceptual value.

Post-graffiti — that which comes after graffiti but is not quite like it — employs a range of artistic techniques, from stencils and murals to installations and crochet, see-king to democratise art while retaining the spontaneous essence of graffiti. It seems to function like a unique art world of its own by creating outdoor gallery spaces, such as urban art districts, that may be ticketed and that coincide with the worlds of tourism, design and advertising.

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CO2 emissions in 2024 to be higher than last year

The Global Carbon Budget (GCB) released at the ongoing COP29 summit has raised apprehensions about the carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions increasing this year when countries have been negotiating for funds to tackle the climate change impact.

The GCB has projected CO2 emissions in 2024 to be a whopping 41.6 billion tonnes, more than the figure of 40.6 billion tonnes last year. This includes CO2 emissions of 37.4 billion tonnes from fossil fuels and the rest from land-use change (deforestation). With over 40 billion tonnes released each year at present, the level of CO2 in the atmosphere continues to rise and contributes further to global warming.

However, the latest update from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) indicated that 2024 is the hottest year, with temperatures soaring 1.5°C above the pre-industrial era. It expressed concern about the state of the global climate system, with record-high atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations being observed in 2023, and 2024 being on track to be the hottest year on record.

Meanwhile, over 30 countries have endorsed the COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste, including eight of the 10 largest emitters of methane from organic wastes. Countries have committed to setting up sectoral targets on food waste shortly.

During the presidential meeting of COP29 on Friday, countries like the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom and the UAE, endorsed the declaration. This comes after the COP28 President



launched the Oil and Gas Decarbonisation Charter, which was signed by 50 industries to achieve near-zero upstream methane emissions last year in Dubai. "COP28 focused on methane emissions from the fossil fuel sector and COP29 is focusing on waste," Rick Duke, Deputy Special Envoy for Climate, United States said at the presidency event held earlier in the day, adding that there was an opportunity for the COP30 presidency Brazil to announce a pledge targeting methane emissions from

the agricultural sector. Methane is responsible for a third of the net warming since the pre-industrial era. The waste sector releases methane when organic wastes — food and yard waste, paper, cardboard, wood, and bodily wastes — break down in the oxygen-free environment found in landfills, dumpsites, and wastewater facilities around the world. The waste sector contributes roughly 20 percent of anthropogenic methane emissions.

Literature & Health

Researchers discover molecular mechanism for bacterial infection

Researchers at Virginia Tech have discovered how bacteria change molecules in order to infect their host. The mechanism by which the bacterial pathogen *Shigella flexneri*, the cause of dysentery, modulates molecular activity to ensure its survival despite its host's natural defences has been uncovered by Daniel Capelluto and his research team. Their research was just published in the open access journal *Structure* published by Cell Press.



this process is seen in *Shigella flexneri*, a bacterium transmitted through contaminated water or food and that targets the intestinal lining.

According to Capelluto, dysentery is prevalent in low- and middle-income countries, especially among children under 5 years old, and is responsible for 160,000 deaths worldwide each year.

"Pathogens such as bacteria infect cells and they change the metabolism or the behavior of the cell they are infecting to prepare for their invasion," said Capelluto, an affiliate with the Fralin Life Sciences Institute.

Dominica awards PM Modi its highest honour

The Commonwealth of Dominica has conferred its highest national honour, the Dominica Award of Honour, upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi. President Sylvanie Burton presented the award to PM Modi in recognition of his efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic and his dedication to strengthening the relationship between India and Dominica.



Upon receiving the prestigious award, PM Modi expressed his gratitude, saying, "This honour is not only mine but of 140 crore people of India, their efforts, their values and their tradition. We are two democracies, and we together are role models of women's empowerment for

the world. It is a matter of deep satisfaction that we were able to help the people of Dominica during a pandemic like Covid-19."

This recognition follows a long-standing history of cooperation between India and Dominica. Prime Minister Modi, during his visit to Guyana, also met with Dominica's Prime Minister

Roosevelt Skerrit in Georgetown for bilateral talks. The meeting highlighted India's commitment to fostering stronger ties with Caribbean nations.

India and Dominica have maintained cordial diplomatic relations since 1981, with numerous high-level exchanges between the two countries.

POEM

Ring out, wild bells

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky, The flying cloud, the frosty light: The year is dying in the night; Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:

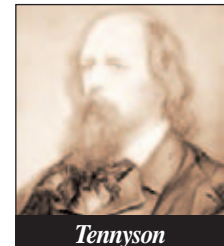
The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor, Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;

Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

By Alfred, Lord Tennyson



India advocates dialogue to resolve complex international issues

India has always advocated and practised dialogue for resolving complex international issues, said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Laos PDR on Thursday. He was addressing the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM Plus) in Laos.

Rajnath Singh said, "This commitment to open communication and peaceful negotiation is evident in India's approach to a wide range of international challenges, from border disputes to trade agreements."

"Considering the ongoing conflicts in different parts of the world and challenges to the international order, it is providential that we are meeting in Laos, which has internalized the Buddhist principles of non-violence and peace for long," he said.

Rajnath Singh said that in the context of the promotion of peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific, India stands for freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce and adherence to international law.

He further said that India believes that genuine, long-term solutions to global problems can only be achieved when nations engage constructively, respecting each other's perspectives and working toward shared goals in the spirit of coop-



eration. "The Joint Statement being adopted in the meeting and our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN will, of course, lay the groundwork for our partnership in future. In the days ahead, India looks forward to working with

all of you towards a stable, safer and more secure world for our future generations," added Rajnath Singh.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday attended the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM Plus) in Vientiane, Lao PDR. During

the meeting, Singh underscored India's commitment to dialogue in resolving complex issues and emphasised that India firmly believes in constructive engagement among nations to achieve genuine, long-term solutions to global problems.

Sharing a post on X, the office of the Defence Minister of India wrote, "Raksha Mantri Shri @rajnathsingh attending the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus at Vientiane, Lao PDR." Singh said, "India has always advocated and practised dialogue for resolving complex international issues. This commitment to open communication and peaceful negotiation is evident in India's approach to a wide range of international challenges, from border disputes to trade agreements." He added, "India believes that genuine, long-term solutions to global problems can only be achieved when nations engage constructively, respecting each other's perspectives and working toward shared goals in the spirit of cooperation."

He further said, "As we are sitting here in the ADMM Plus forum, I wish to emphasise that this, and other similar forums, provide us a platform and an opportunity to discuss and deliberate issues of cooperation and contest in an open, frank and honest manner."

Emphasising the need for dialogue, Singh said, "An open dialogue promotes trust, understanding, and cooperation, laying the foundation for sustainable partnerships. The power of dialogue has always proven effective, yielding tangible results that contribute to stability and harmony on the global stage."

The defence minister reiterated India's commitment to the promotion of peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and said, "In the context of promotion of peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific, India stands for freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce and adherence to international law."

On the ongoing discussions on the Code of Conduct, Singh said, "India would like to see a Code that should not prejudice the legitimate rights and interests of nations, which are not party to these discussions. The code should be fully consistent with international law, in particular the UN Convention Law of Sea 1982."

"Speaking about climate change leads us to the critical concept of 'Global Commons' - the shared natural resources and ecosystems essential to sustaining life and bringing prosperity on the planet."

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