

## Section I: Summary

*March was a productive month for us with a lot going on at Transitions Research. We signed a memorandum with the Government of Maharashtra to test and implement net-zero solutions for the city of Kolhapur, arranged guided walks to explore the future of nature and the built environment in Panaji, published blog-posts on AI, gender equality, and other exciting topics and got covered by one of India's largest media platforms for the development community!*

## Section II: Happening tomorrow

### Talking About Transitions: The Future of Nature in India's Mid-Sized Cities

Our upcoming Dialogue, scheduled to take place on April 2nd from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. IST, will focus on India's rapidly growing mid-sized cities. Mid-sized cities are inevitably going to need infrastructure to accommodate the growing population, but it's vital to ensure that this development doesn't come at the cost of existing ecologies. In this context, our Dialogue will explore the future of nature in India's mid-sized cities, questioning how we can most sustainably and equitably navigate rapid urban expansion, climate change, and the needs and aspirations of communities who depend on nature. Register to attend:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_JntjlTYKR6SMuzhEy45ueQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JntjlTYKR6SMuzhEy45ueQ)



**Talking about Transitions:**  
**THE FUTURE OF  
NATURE IN INDIA'S  
MID-SIZED CITIES**

Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024  
5:30 to 6:30pm (IST)  
**Virtual Event**

Talking About Transitions feature critical conversations on systemic transitions at the interplay of technology, society and sustainability.

Our upcoming dialogue **"The Future of Nature in India's Mid-Sized Cities"** explores the future of nature in India's rapidly growing mid-sized cities, questioning how to navigate rapid urban expansion, climate change and the needs and aspirations of communities who depend on nature. Today, nature is being recognised as a key solution to climate change. However, in the context of rapid urban growth, the demand for new infrastructure is inevitable. Whether India's cities mirror historical growth patterns and engineer ecosystems to cater to speculative growth or reframe their relationship with nature, is yet to be seen.

## Section III: Research Update

## **PULL Net Zero Imagination Walks in Panaji, Goa**

[PULL Net Zero](#) and Travelling Dome collaboratively organised a series of Imagination Walks aimed at visualising the future of nature and the built environment in Panaji on March 15th and 17th, 2024. Our guided walks encouraged citizens to think deeply and experientially about how they might interact with these spaces in a net-zero future. The aim of these walks was to create place-based imaginings in a Smart City with a unique set of challenges and opportunities. Many fascinating conceptual questions were raised, for example, about the stewardship of natural spaces in and around cities. Participants also talked about specific visions, imagining Panaji with more permeable surfaces to allow groundwater replenishment, edible plants growing in public spaces, and a potential drive to popularise a return to traditional architecture styles like breathing roofs to lower cooling-related emissions.

Glimpses from our walks:



**PULL Net Zero expands to Kolhapur and strengthens efforts in Panaji**

We are thrilled to announce the expansion of our People's Urban Living (PULL): Net Zero to Kolhapur, where we will be supporting the city in achieving its net zero goals by co-creating, testing, and implementing equitable net-zero pathways. We are excited to begin work in Kolhapur!

Additionally, we have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Goa Energy Development Agency (GEDA) to strengthen our efforts in Panaji to support the city's transition to a net-zero, solar city. We will be working with GEDA to generate demand for clean energy solutions, including rooftop solar.

## **Section IV: Transitions News**

### **India Development Review covers Research Associate Shantha Tara Venugopal's piece on energy justice in India**

India Development Review (IDR) covered Shantha Tara Venugopal's blog on India's need to focus on social justice in its energy transitions. Read the piece [here](#).

### **Transitions Research becomes part of AI Knowledge Consortium**

Transitions Research joined the [AI Knowledge Consortium \(AIKC\)](#), composed of twelve research organisations, which is dedicated to fostering multi-stakeholder AI governance in India. The AIKC's mission is to elevate AI governance in India, ensuring that the technological revolution triggered by AI is inclusive, equitable, and reflective of our shared values and aspirations. Read The Hindu article [here](#).

### **The Leaflet carries Nishant Sirohi and Lianne D'Souza's article on Chipko Movement's legacy**

Commemorating 50 years of the Chipko Movement, Nishant Sirohi and Liane D'Souza, in their article, shed light on the importance of grassroots activism and the need to put people in the forefront of environmental governance.

## **Section V: Publications/Blog posts**

### **[BLOG] No Woman Left Behind: Shedding Light on Gender Equity in India's Low-Carbon Transitions**

Despite near universal access to electricity, gendered inequities in electricity usage hinder India's progress on sustainable development goals. As national energy policy increasingly focuses on renewable energy, socio-cultural shifts must also be prioritised to improve

women's agency in generating energy, and women's access to electricity use. Read Ashali Bhandari, Amita Basu, and Shantha Tara Venugopal's blogpost [here](#).

### **[BLOG] Inspire Inclusion: The Imperative for Women's Participation in India's Climate Decision-making**

Women's inclusion in climate change decision-making is a consideration of both equity and pragmatics. Women's voices, experiences, and expertise are indispensable assets as India navigates the complexities of climate change and moves towards a sustainable, equitable, and resilient future. Read Nishtant Sirohi and Lianne D'Souza's blogpost [here](#).

### **Section VI: What we've been reading/ watching**

[Angelina Chamuah](#) → Revisiting the book *Minimal Ethics for the Anthropocene*, by Prof. Joanna Zylińska who is a writer, lecturer, artist, and curator working in the areas of digital technologies and new media, ethics, photography, and art. The book talks about ethics as a very human cultural practice, as a form of regulating ways of co-existing and co-emerging with others, and how the Anthropocene demands a response and not just a reaction.

[Prerna Singh](#) I recently watched *The Big Short*, a documentary about the 2007 financial crisis, shared from the perspective of a few key individuals who could see through and towards the upcoming [black swan event](#). My takeaway from this was that, when we're trying to understand any complex emerging phenomenon, you need to gather evidence from the ground, and take every convoluted terminology thrown at you with a grain of salt. The quote often attributed to Einstein comes to mind here: "If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough".

### **Section VII: Upcoming at Transitions**

#### **[Report Launch] User Journeys with Generative AI: Navigating the Future of Work and Society**

Under its Digital Society programme led by Angelina Chamuah, Transitions Research will be shortly publishing a report titled 'User Journeys with Generative AI: Navigating the Future of Work and Society.' This work presents the results of a pilot study that aimed to expand the spotlight of GenAI discourses to include and foreground users of the technology as the emerging political subject in this digital age. Sign up to receive the report directly in your inbox upon release:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeYJGIZQovQ6BfxD3O4SM0h0xvsrvUEOJ0yBfer7NL\\_9NGjQw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeYJGIZQovQ6BfxD3O4SM0h0xvsrvUEOJ0yBfer7NL_9NGjQw/viewform)

## **Section VII: Call to Action**

Follow us on [social media](#), Subscribe to our [newsletter](#), Visit our [website](#), Get in touch [for collaborations](#). [Write to us](#) to join the conversation around the transition to an equitable and livable future.