



Director's Message

With temperatures soaring past 45°C in multiple Indian cities, this summer is a stark reminder that climate change isn't a distant threat—it's an immediate reality. At Transitions Research, we are dedicated year-round to envisioning a cooler, fairer, and more inclusive future and identifying actionable pathways to achieve it. In May, we intensified our focus on promoting equitable development to navigate a hotter future within the unique challenges of the South Asian context.

Research Updates

PULL Net Zero is excited to announce the kickoff of our Rooftop Solar Pilot in Panaji, Goa. We are collaborating with the Goa Energy Development Agency (GEDA) to drive rooftop solar adoption by households and businesses in order to achieve Panaji's mission of becoming a solar city. Our ongoing fieldwork is focused on understanding barriers and facilitators to solar adoption in Panaji. This work is preparatory to designing interventions to encourage solar adoption. [Stay tuned](#) for more updates!

Publications/Blog posts

New issue in the AI+ blog series, “Why AI Governance Must Contend with Semiconductor Geopolitics”

Our latest entry into the AI+ Blog series ‘Why AI Governance Must Contend with Semiconductor Geopolitics’ by Satya S. Sahu (Research Analyst with the High-Tech Geopolitics Programme at the Takshashila Institution) writes about the geopolitical and geo-economic dynamics related to semiconductors, such as the concentration of chip manufacturing in certain countries. This piece also examines how restrictions on semiconductor access can impact AI research, development, and governance efforts globally. Read Sahu's blog [here](#).

Citizen Matters publishes a piece by Amita Basu, “Walk through Panaji brings up memories and vision for city”

Research Fellow [Amita Basu](#) writes about the significance of the PULL Net Zero: Imagination Walks in Panaji (conducted recently by Transitions Research in collaboration with [Tallulah](#)

[D'Silva's Travelling Dome](#)) in fostering a deeper connection with the future of one's city, particularly in the context of Panaji's ambitious net-zero commitments. Read [here](#).

ORF publishes a blog by Nishant Sirohi and Lianne D'Souza, "A warming warning: Why the climate crisis is a public health emergency"

"Can climate change be legally classified as a public health emergency?"

Nishant Sirohi, and Lianne D'Souza, write about the urgent need to consider climate change as a public health emergency due to its profound implications for human health and well-being. Read [here](#).

Events

Transitions Research's latest dialogue, "Can We Survive And Thrive in Hotter Cities?" on June 3rd at 5:30 pm (IST).

On June 3rd, 2024, at 5:30 pm (IST), Transitions Research hosted a dialogue titled, "Can We Survive And Thrive in Hotter Cities?" with panellists [Owen Gow](#), Deputy Director at Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Centre, [Bushra Afreen](#), Chief Heat Officer at Dhaka North, [Aditya Valiathan Pillai](#), Fellow and Coordinator at Sustainable Futures Collaborative and moderator [Ashali Bhandari](#), Managing Director, PULL. In this panel discussion, we delved into the question of adapting to rising temperatures. This latest edition of our *Talking About Transitions* dialogue explored the role of policy, including heat adaptation plans, in addressing the uneven impacts of heat in urban communities, as well as the role of cooling technologies, which demand massive energy consumption and compromise our ability to achieve mitigation goals. Watch the recorded webinar [here](#).

Transitions Research and Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) co-host "Heat Hacks: Building Community Resilience to Beat the Heat Together" at the CBA18: local solutions inspiring global action conference in Tanzania, May 6th to May 9th, 2024.

On May 6th, Prerna Singh and Rushalee Goswami co-hosted a thematic session on heat at the Community Based Adaptation (CBA) conference in Tanzania, with the ARA, a global coalition of organisations engaged in action research on adaptation. CBA conference series brings together a community of practitioners who are collectively seeking to reimagine adaptation solutions that enable transformative outcomes, through the agency of communities driving climate action. The aim of this session was to think about first-step scalable solutions on heat that communities can adapt for relief from extreme heat.



New Team Members



Abhipsha Ghosh

[Abhipsha](#) is a Resilience Research Associate at Transitions Research. She supports ongoing research, coordination, and project activities related to adaptation, resilience and loss and damage, including People's Urban Living Lab (PULL). She holds an M.Sc. in Environmental Studies and Resource Management from TERI School of Advanced Studies, Delhi. In the dynamic space of sustainability, Abhipsha's main areas of interest include addressing climate risk and vulnerability in interlinked sectors and supply chains, devising stakeholder-inclusive resilience pathways, and scaling evidence-driven solutions.



Lianne D'Souza

[Lianne](#) is a Research Assistant with Low Carbon Society programme at Transitions Research. A lawyer by training, her research interests lie in climate change law, energy transitions, and international trade law. In her previous research roles, she has worked extensively on climate change legislation, water law and governance, legal regulation of access and benefit-sharing in the context of biodiversity conservation, and chemical waste management in India. She holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Law from Stockholm University and a Bachelor's Degree in Law from Christ University.



Vandana Pusalkar

[Vandana](#) is an Associate Fellow for PULL Net Zero, Kolhapur. An accomplished architect, she has recently completed her doctoral research, which focused on Sustainable Waterfront Regeneration. In her research, Vandana has addressed the challenges and opportunities for water-sensitive, ecologically balanced cities in India. Her innovative approaches to urban water management are designed to tackle the issues of rapid urbanisation, resource depletion, and climate change impacts.



Vaishnavi Chavan

[Vaishnavi](#) is a Research Associate for PULL Net Zero, Kolhapur. She is an architect and urban conservationist.

What we've been reading/watching/ listening to

[Ronika Postaria](#) I am currently reading the revised version of [Human Transit](#) (2011) by Jarrett Walker. Reading this book makes me question some inherent aspects of transit planning, such as planning for ridership vs. coverage, acknowledging transfer penalties/user perception of transfer time while accounting for rider time savings, users' needs for frequent services, and above all, 'respect for transit' as the author puts it. Despite the examples being from developed nations, the arguments often ignite a sense of curiosity and interest in analysing the same issues in the developing world.

[Angelina Chamuah](#) I am reading [The Political Philosophy of AI: An Introduction \(2022\)](#) by Mark Coeckelbergh. The book utilises a political philosophy lens to examine how various political issues are already being impacted by emerging AI technologies: from justice and discrimination to democracy and surveillance.

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.