



Living Root Bridges

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Why in News

According to a study recently published in the journal **Scientific Reports**, the living root bridges (found in Meghalaya) can be considered as a reference point for future botanical architecture projects in urban contexts.

Root Bridge

- Living root bridges (also known as Jing Kieng Jri) are the **aerial bridges** that are built by **weaving and manipulating the roots** of the **Indian rubber tree**.
 - A root bridge uses **traditional tribal knowledge** to train the roots of the Indian rubber tree (found in abundance in the area) to grow laterally across a stream bed resulting in a living bridge of roots.
 - It spans between 15 and 250 feet and is built over centuries.
- They have been serving as connectors for generations in the Indian state of **Meghalaya**.

The bridges are primarily a **means to cross streams and rivers**. They have also become world-famous **tourist attractions**. The two most popular tourist spots are- ***Riwai Root Bridge and Umshiang Double Decker Bridge***.

- They have **three main properties**:
 - They are **elastic**,
 - The roots **easily combine**, and
 - The plants grow in **rough and rocky soils**.



Source: IE