

Living root bridges

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Why in news?

- New research investigates the **Jing kieng jri or living root bridges** structures and proposes to integrate them in modern architecture around the world. ("**Baubotanik**" is a field of research that promotes the use of plants as living building materials in structures).

About the bridges:

- **Living root bridges (also known as Jing Kieng Jri) are the aerial bridges** that are built by weaving and manipulating the **roots of the Ficus elastica or the Indian rubber tree**.
- These have been serving as **connectors for generations in Meghalaya**.
- The bridges are made and maintained by individuals, families and communities from the **indigenous Khasi and Jaintia people**.
- Spanning between 15 and 250 feet, the bridges are primarily a **means to cross streams and rivers** and are world-famous tourist attractions.
- The two most popular tourist spots are- **Riwai Root Bridge and Umshiang Double Decker Bridge**.