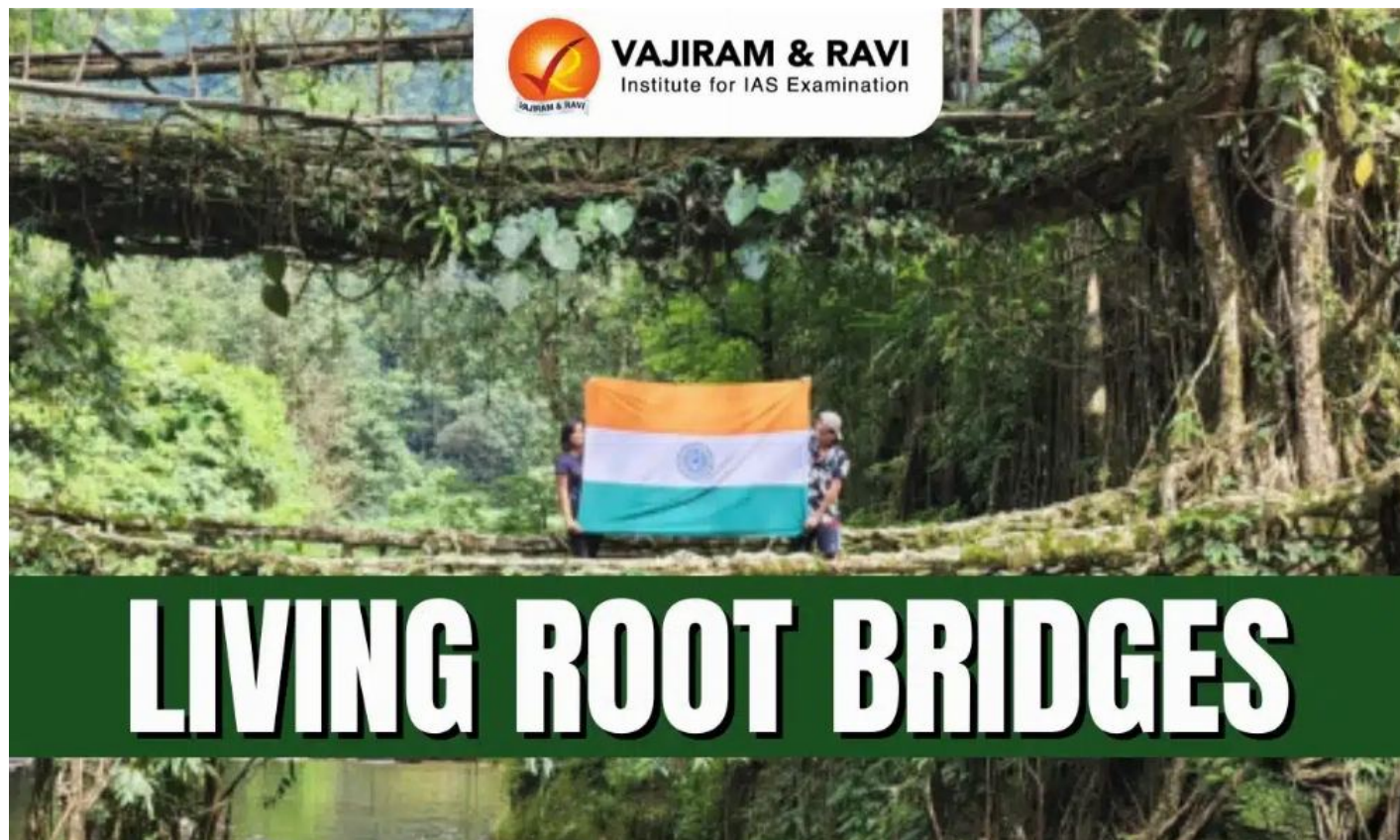


Living Root Bridge

January 31, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Living Root Bridges Latest News

Recently, India submitted Meghalaya's living root bridges to UNESCO for World Heritage status.

About Living Root Bridges

- The living root bridges are locally known as **Jingkieng Jri or Lyu Chrai**.
- These are nestled across the lush southern slopes of the **Khasi and Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya**.
- These are masterpieces of bioengineering **created by indigenous communities**.
- These are grown by **indigenous Khasi and Jaintia tribes** over a time period of 15 to 30 years.
- These bridges range in span from 15 feet to 250 feet, and last for several centuries.

Construction of Living Root Bridges

- The bridges are grown by methods of tree-shaping **using the aerial roots of Ficus Elastica** (Rubber fig tree/Indian rubber tree).

- The underlying growth process involves **recurring inosculation** (joining by twining) of Ficus aerial root fibres over a gorge or river.
- The process begins with placing of young pliable aerial roots **in hollowed Areca catechu** trunks.
- These provide essential nutrition and protection from the weather, and also perform as root guidance systems.
- This assemblage is **structurally supported by a bamboo scaffold**, which spans the river and performs as a temporary river crossing for the local community.
- Over time, as the aerial roots increase in strength and thickness, the Areca catechu trunks are no longer required.

Source: News On Air

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-is-meghalayas-living-root-bridge/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.