



Mann Ki Baat – Meghalaya’s Living Root Bridges

- In the **135th episode** of **Mann Ki Baat**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** highlighted Meghalaya’s **living root bridges** as an outstanding example of harmony between nature and indigenous knowledge. Today, local communities maintain **over 120** such bridges through regular inspections and conservation efforts.
- India has nominated the **Living Root Bridges of Meghalaya** for inclusion in the **UNESCO World Heritage List**.
- These bridges are created by carefully guiding the aerial roots of rubber fig trees. They typically require **10-30 years** to become fully usable, reflecting long-term community stewardship across generations.
- Once fully matured, a living root bridge can remain functional for **500-600 years**, withstanding intense monsoon floods that often destroy conventional wooden or bamboo bridges.

APSC Relevance: Indigenous Knowledge; UNESCO Heritage