

PRABHA IAS IPS COACHING ACADEMY



UNESCO has partnered with the Sikkim government to document the indigenous engineering known as Ru-Soam.

Ru-Soam Bridges

It is a cane bridge built by the Lepcha community in Sikkim, especially in the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve.

In the Lepcha language, 'Ru' means cane or rattan, while 'Soam' refers to a bridge.

Materials Used: It is crafted from locally available materials such as bamboo, cane, and wood.

It consists of two parallel canes called soamgyang. The soamgyang are tied to trees on the two ends, ensuring that the bridge remains suspended.

A ru-soam contains swinging cane loops called ahoor.

Bamboos, or soamgur, are used to make the deck of the bridge.

The bridges can be 100 metres long, and two or three people can cross them at a time

This engineering practice reflects a sophisticated understanding of ecological balance and structural resilience.

The Ru-Soam cane bridges are not relics of the past; they are living expressions of engineering ingenuity.