

QUIZ OF THE DAY

Refer to The Hindu News Analysis Video (YouTube)

Date: 08th Dec 2022

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Adam's Bridge (Ram Setu).

1. It is a chain of limestone shoals, between Pamban Island of Sri Lanka and Mannar Island of Tamil Nadu, India.
2. The bridge is 30 km long and separates the Gulf of Mannar from the Palk Strait.
3. Hindus believe that this structure was built by Lord Rama and his army of apes and monkeys to reach Ravana's Lanka.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding India's labour force:

1. India's female labour force participation rate (FLFPR) increased between 2000 to 2020.
2. Over 60% of women in the working age (15-59-years) group are engaged in full-time housework.
3. Indian women represent nearly half of India's population but contribute only about one sixth of GDP.
4. Share of the Indian workforce who have undergone any formal skills training is about 5 % of India's total workforce.

Choose the CORRECT answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation and Solutions

Q1. Answer: B

Explanation:

Adam's Bridge or Ram Setu is a chain of natural limestone shoals, connecting India and Sri Lanka. There is an ongoing debate if this structure is naturally formed or man-made.

There are only a few historical structures across the globe that link mythological and historical theories together. One such construction is Adam's Bridge, also known as Ram Setu. Recently, the central government approved an underwater exploration, to study the structure and determine the age of the Ram Setu and its formation. This study will also help in understanding if the structure is as old as the Ramayana period. Also, there is a demand to make Ram Setu a national monument, although the matter is sub-judice. With this, it becomes more interesting to know if there are possibilities to link Indian mythology with modern day structures.

The Ram Setu bridge is a chain of natural mineral shoals between Pamban Island or Rameswaram Island in Tamil Nadu, India, and Mannar Island in Sri Lanka. The bridge has a great significance as per Hindu mythology and is mentioned in the Ramayana. The Structure has also intrigued scientists as studies are being undertaken to determine the age of the Ram Sethu bridge. As the sea water near the coral reef is very shallow, navigation of ships is impossible, because of which ships have to take roundabout routes, to reach Sri Lanka.

The Sethusamudram Project was proposed, to provide a shortcut route from Pamban Island to Mannar Island in Sri Lanka. However, environmentalists say that the project could destroy the natural reefs, which had existed for thousands of years. Although the Sethusamudram Project was planned to be executed by deepening the Pamban pass, so that the Rama Sethu could also be preserved, the project is still at a standstill.

Oceanography research suggests that the bridge is 7,000 years old. This tallies with the carbon dating of beaches near Mannar Island and Dhanushkodi.

Ram Setu Bridge: Mythological significance

Ram Setu was first mentioned in Valmiki's Ramayana, a Hindu epic. The bridge is believed to have been built by Lord Rama's Vanara Sena, with instructions from Nala, for Lord Ram to reach Lanka to rescue his wife Sita. According to legend, the bridge was built using floating stones, with name of Lord Rama engraved on it, which made it unsinkable. Apparently, Lord

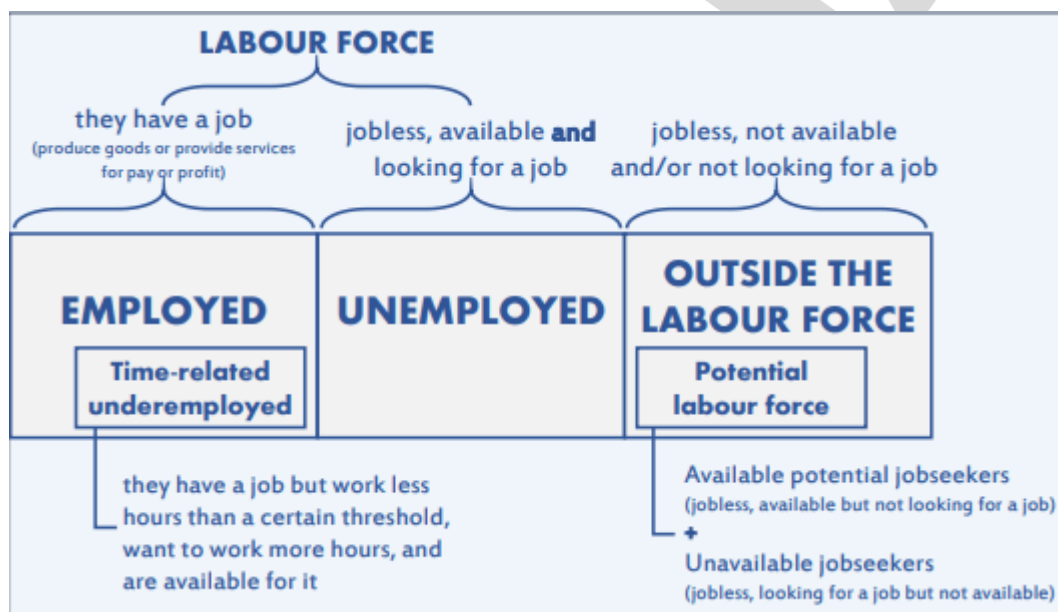
Rama prayed to the ocean, for a path from India to Lanka, so that he could go and rescue Sita from the clutches of Ravana, the king of Lanka.

As per Ramayana, 7th century BCE to 3rd century CE, the Ram Setu bridge was constructed by lord Ram, with the help of an army of Vanaras (monkeys), led by Lord Hanuman, to reach Lanka.

Ram Setu, also known as Adam's Bridge, Nala Setu and Setu Banda, is the only archaeological and historical evidence of Ramayana. According to Hindu mythology, Ram Setu is a holy site. Therefore, no bridge should be built over it.

Q2. Answer: C

Explanation:



What is LFPR?

According to the CMIE, the labor force consists of people who are 15 years or older, and belong to either of the following two categories:

- Are Employed
- Are unemployed and are willing to work and are actively looking for a job.

These two categories have people “demanding” jobs. This demand is what LFPR refers to.

Thus, the LFPR essentially is the percentage of the working-age (15 years or older) population that is asking for a job.

It represents the “demand” for jobs in an economy. It includes those who are employed and those who are unemployed.

The Unemployment Rate (UER), which is routinely quoted in the news, is nothing but the number of unemployed (category 2) as a proportion of the labor force. In India, the LFPR is not only lower than in the rest of the world but also falling. In India, it has been sliding over the last 10 years and has shrunk from 47% in 2016 to just 40% as of December 2021.

CHART 1

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION & EMPLOYMENT RATES

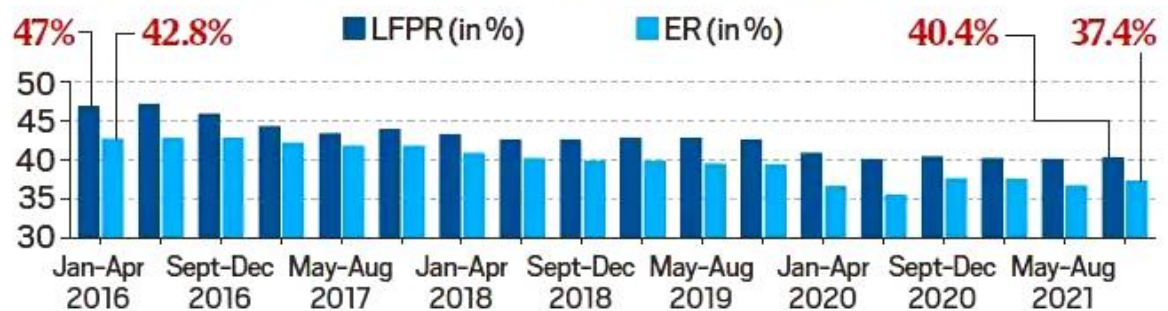


CHART 2

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

