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## Jharkhand Launches Employment Schemes

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### Why in News

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Recently, Jharkhand launched three employment schemes — Birsa Harit Gram Yojana (BHGY), Neelambar Pitambar JAL Sammridhi Yojana (NPJSY) and Veer Sahid Poto Ho Khel Vikas Scheme (VSPHKVS) — to create wage employment for workers in rural areas.

Earlier, the **Odisha government has announced a Rs 100-crore Urban Wage Employment Initiative** to generate employment for the urban poor in 114 urban local bodies.

### Key Points

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- These three schemes have been devised in convergence with the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**.
- **Issue:** According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CIME) data, the State is reeling under severe joblessness with unemployment rate pegged at 47.1% — double that of the national average (23.5%).

The arrival of an estimated 5 lakh to 6 lakh stranded migrant workers (due to Covid-19 lockdown) from other states is likely to worsen the situation.
- Through MGNREGA and these special schemes the state government plans to create 30 crore person days and provide wage employment to the rural people in the coming 5 years.

- **Birsa Harit Gram Yojana (BHGY):**
  - The BHGY is envisaged at **bringing over two lakh acres of unused government fallow land** under the **afforestation programme**.
  - About five lakh families will be provided 100 fruit-bearing plants.
  - The initial plantation, maintenance, land work and afforestation will be taken up through MGNREGA.
  - Each family is estimated to receive an annual income of ₹50,000 from fruit harvest after three years while the ownership of land will remain with the government.
- **Neelambar Pitambar Jal Sammridhi Yojna (NPJSY):**
  - Under this, the government is aiming at creating agro-water storage units by arresting rainwater and runaway groundwater.
  - Nearly 5 lakh acre of cultivable land can be irrigated through the initiative.
  - An estimated 10 crore person days will be generated through the scheme in the next 4-5 years.
- **Veer Sahid Poto Ho Khel Vikas Scheme (VSPHKVS):**
  - Under VSPHKVS, the government is linking sports with rural job schemes for creation of assets in the rural areas in order to give a boost to sports.
  - About 5,000 sports grounds are being planned to be set up, with one each in all the 4,300 panchayats.

**Source: TH**