



# PACS

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## PACS begins efforts to bring in relief for poor

Staff Reporter | Bhopal

**T**he NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) Week awareness campaign, organised by Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS), was launched on Sunday with a Press conference at Patrakar Bhawan, Malaviya Nagar.

Speaking on the occasion, State Anchor, PACS Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Sanjeev Ranjan said that the NREGA, which covers 200 of the poorest districts in India, came into force on February 2. This scheme is expected to cover the entire country within the next five years.

He said that the PACS Programme is working in 57 NREGS districts across six States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The scheme is being implemented in 11 districts in Madhya Pradesh and three in Chhattisgarh. It provides PACS a unique opportunity to be deeply engaged with the scheme which envisages relief to the poor in the country.

He added that PACS views the scheme as an initiative to realise the right to work, and PACS CSO partners working in NREGS districts would, in the course of a NREGS Week Celebrations, seek to generate awareness about the salient features of this scheme and motivate people to access it.

Amod Khanna of TAAL said that, broadly PACS CSOs would launch the NREGA week through *sammelans* to develop a better understanding of the scheme for different stakeholders.

Yogesh Kumar of Samarthan said that the campaign seeks to build awareness and draw attention of the administration to the ground realities with regard to the implementation of the NREGA. He said that people and civil society organisations face a difficult task in accessing the various components of the scheme, like equal wages, uniform wage rate and drinking water facilities, and so on.

THE PIONEER