

Assessing MGNREGA Performance in Andhra Pradesh: Key Insights from April-September 2024

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About this report:

This report analyses employment generated in Andhra Pradesh between Apr-Sep¹ 2024 period, comparing it to the same period with the previous financial year i.e. 2023-24. The data, sourced from <https://nrega.nic.in/> as of 6-10-2024, offers valuable insights into the current status of MGNREGA implementation in the state. The goal is to inform citizens and stakeholders about key trends and developments in the program's execution.

¹ April to September

Key Findings of the Report

- **11.8% decline in employment:** Andhra Pradesh saw an 11.8% drop in persondays generated between April-September 2024, compared to the same period in 2023-24, signalling reduced employment opportunities.
- **16.2% national vs 11.8% state decline:** Andhra Pradesh's 11.8% drop in persondays is lower than the 16.2% national decline, showing that the state's decline in employment opportunities was less severe than the national trend.
- **2.4% decline in households engaged:** A 2.4% drop in unique households working under MGNREGA, from 43.86 lakh in 2023-24 to 42.79 lakh in 2024-25, indicates reduced participation in Andhra Pradesh.
- **35.1% drop in Nellore:** Nellore district recorded the highest decline in persondays with a 35.1% decrease, followed by Kurnool (30.9%) and Tirupati (22.4%).
- **17.6% increase in Parvathipuram Manyam:** Amid the overall downturn, Parvathipuram Manyam district saw a 17.6% increase in persondays, along with gains in Sri Sathya Sai (8.0%) and Alluri Sitharama Raju (4.7%). Srikakulam saw a slight increase of 1%.
- **15.5% drop for Scheduled Castes:** Scheduled Castes faced a 15.5% decline and the "Others" category saw a 12.6% drop in persondays, signalling widespread employment challenges across social groups. However, Scheduled Tribes saw a slight 1.7% increase in persondays..
- **0.59 lakh net worker inclusion:** Andhra Pradesh had a net positive inclusion of 0.59 lakh workers during April-September 2024, as 3.43 lakh workers were added, outpacing 2.85 lakh deletions..
- **60% compliance violation led to early decline:** Despite a strong start in April, Andhra Pradesh saw a sharp decline in persondays generated. Several concerns of the state failing to meet the 60% expenditure requirement on agriculture and allied activities as raised by the Ministry of Rural Development may have contributed to this sharp decline.

1. Key Statistics

The table below highlights key statistics for Andhra Pradesh alongside national figures for the period of Apr-Sep 2024, offering a comparative overview.

Table 1: Key MGNREGA statistics for the country vs Andhra Pradesh

S.No.	Metric	Andhra Pradesh	Country	Proportion of Andhra Pradesh
1	Total Number of Districts	26	740	-
2	Total Number of Mandals(Blocks)	660	7,181	-
3	Total Number of Panchayats	13,388	2,68,925	-
4	Jobcards Issued (lakhs) as on 6th October 2024	68.62	1,429	4.80%
5	Total Number of Active Jobcards (lakhs) as on 6th October 2024	56.6	916	6.20%
6	Total Number of Active Workers (lakhs) as on 6th October 2024	95.33	1,317	7.20%
7	Persondays Generated in FY 24-25 (crores)	17.95	157.59	11.40%
8	Unique Households worked in FY 24-25(Lakhs)	42.79	452.72	9.50%
9	Average Persondays per Households(HH)	41.9	34.81	-

2. Employment at State Level

2.1 Employment Metrics and Trends in Andhra Pradesh

- 11.8% dip in persondays generated in FY 2024-25 when compared to the same period in FY 2023-24.

MGNREGA is designed to be demand-driven, aligning employment with workers needs, reflected in metrics like the number of households employed and workdays generated. From the perspective of Andhra Pradesh, the data from April to September for the fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 indicates a troubling decline in both the number of households engaged in work and the total persondays generated.

As illustrated in Table 2, the state experienced a decrease in unique households worked, alongside a significant drop in the overall persondays, suggesting a reduction in employment opportunities and economic activity. This trend aligns with the national data, which has a relatively higher drop when compared with the state in both metrics. These findings point to potential challenges in the labour market in Andhra Pradesh, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to address the issues affecting household engagement and job creation in the region.

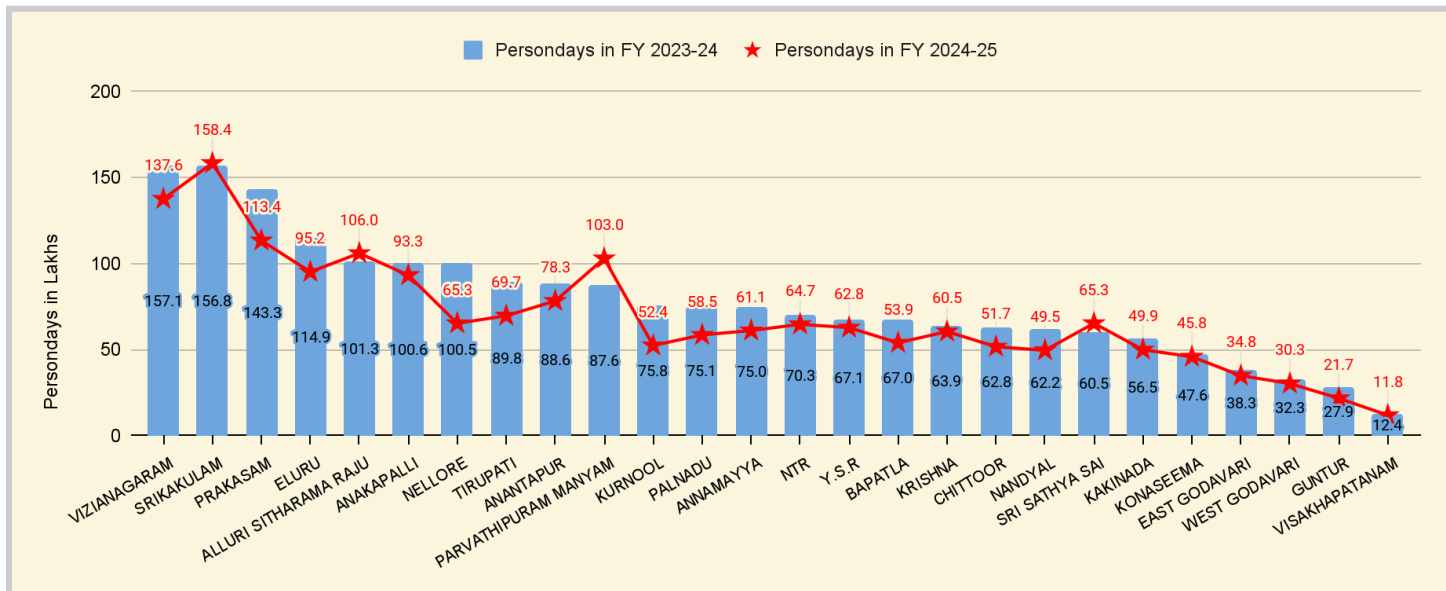
Table 2 : Employment scenario comparison at national and state level for FY 2023-24 and 2024-25.

	Andhra Pradesh			India		
	Apr-Sep 23-24	Apr-Sep 24-25	Drop (%)	Apr-Sep 23-24	Apr-Sep 24-25	Drop (%)
Unique Households worked (in lakhs)	43.86	42.79	-2.4	489	452.72	-7.4
Persondays Generated (in lakhs)	2035	1795	-11.8	18802.55	15758.83	-16.2

2.2 Employment at District Level

- Nellore recorded the highest drop of 35.1% in persondays from FY 2023-24 to FY 2024-25

Figure 1 suggests that out of 26 districts in Andhra Pradesh, 22 districts faced decreases in MGNREGA persondays generated in FY 2024-25, with Nellore, Kurnool, and Tirupati experiencing the sharpest declines of 35.1%, 30.9%, and 22.4%, respectively. However, amidst this overall negative trend, three districts—Parvathipuram Manyam (17.6%), Sri Sathya Sai (8.0%), and Alluri Sitharama Raju



(4.7%)—registered increases in persondays, offering a positive contrast to the statewide decline. Srikakulam saw a slight increase of 1%.

Figure 1: District-wise persondays comparison of Apr-Sep 2023-24 and Apr-Sep 2024-25

2.3 Month-wise Persondays Generated in Andhra Pradesh²

- A strong start in April was overshadowed by a decline due to compliance issues.

In FY 2024-25, MGNREGA started off strong, with April seeing a significant increase in persondays compared to the same period the previous year, marking a vigorous beginning. Andhra Pradesh even recorded the highest employment in the country for April. However, on 7th May 2024, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) alerted the state government about violations in the scheme's implementation, particularly regarding the failure to meet the 60% expenditure requirement on agriculture and allied activities, urging immediate corrective measures. This advisory came unusually early, just five weeks into the financial year, despite the possibility for adjustments later.

Figure 2 shows the trends in persondays generation for FY 2024-25 compared to the previous year. The year started with strong momentum, surpassing FY 2023-24 in April and staying competitive through May. However, a sharp decline followed from May onwards, with persondays falling well below the levels of FY 2023-24. Despite a slight recovery in September, the year overall experienced a faster reduction in persondays generation compared to the previous fiscal year.

² Since the MGNREGA MIS updates the data regularly, a variation of 0.1% is observed in persondays when accessed in October 2023 and October 2024.

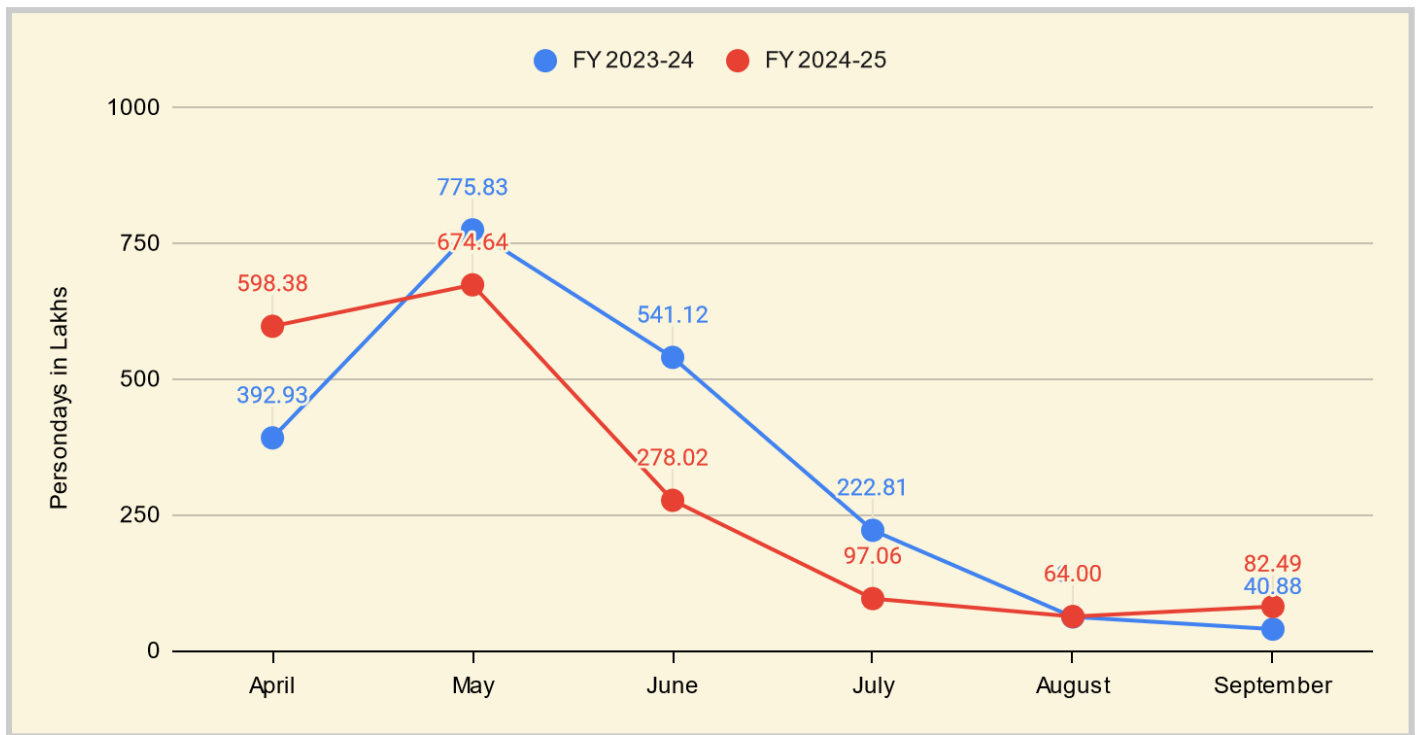


Figure 2: Month-wise comparison of persondays generated in FY 2023-24 and 2024-25

2.4 Caste-Wise Analysis of Persondays Generated: 2023-24 to 2024-25

- *Scheduled Castes and "Others" saw declines, while Scheduled Tribes had a slight increase*

The analysis of persondays generated reveals a notable decline across specific categories from one year to the next (Refer to Table 3). Specifically, the Scheduled Castes and "Others" experienced significant drops, indicating potential challenges in accessing employment opportunities or engaging with the program effectively. Conversely, the Scheduled Tribes saw a slight increase in persondays, suggesting improved participation, possibly due to initiatives by the Department of Tribal Welfare. However, the overall trend reflects a general reduction in persondays across the state. This highlights the widespread nature of the employment decline, affecting all social groups, and underscores the need for broader efforts to sustain and enhance employment generation rather than focusing on targeted interventions for specific groups.

Table 3: Analysis of Persondays Generated by Social Category: 2023-24 vs 2024-25

Group of Workers	Persondays in Lakhs		Drop(%)
	Apr-Sep 2023-24	Apr-Sep 2024-25	
SC	471.13	397.97	-15.5
ST	209.24	212.7	1.7
Others	1354.71	1183.91	-12.6
Total	2035.08	1794.58	-11.8

3. Net Deletions of workers

- Worker inclusions outnumbered worker deletions in the state

Following the national trend, Andhra Pradesh witnessed a mass deletion of 86.71 lakh workers during FY 2022-23 and 2023-24. An ongoing study by LibTech India in tribal areas of the state found that 15% of these deletions were wrongful, with genuine workers being removed for incorrect reasons. In this context, it is crucial to assess the current state of worker deletions and inclusions in Andhra Pradesh.

As shown in Table 4, the state recorded more worker inclusions into MGNREGA than deletions during April to September 2024. While this is a positive development, considering the significant number of deletions over the past two years, the recent inclusions remain insufficient to offset the overall impact. Notably, this increase in worker inclusions stands in contrast to the national trend, where deletions far exceeded inclusions. For a district-wise breakdown of deletions in Andhra Pradesh, refer to Annexure 1.

Table 4: Status of worker deletions for April to September 2024: Andhra Pradesh vs India

	Workers Deleted (Lakhs)	Workers Added (Lakhs)	Net Worker Deletions ³ (Lakhs)
Andhra Pradesh	2.85	3.43	-0.59
India	84.84	45.48	39.36

³ Deleted workers - Added workers

4. Conclusion

The MGNREGA implementation in Andhra Pradesh from April to September 2024 reflects a concerning trend, with a significant 11.8% decline in persondays generated compared to the same period in the previous year. This mirrors a national drop of 16%, indicating widespread challenges. Although Andhra Pradesh had a promising start, generating the highest number of persondays in the country in April 2024, this momentum may have been disrupted by compliance concerns raised by the Union government in May. The Ministry of Rural Development's early intervention regarding expenditure violations may have hindered the state's ability to sustain its initial performance, leading to a noticeable reduction in employment opportunities.

The decline was particularly sharp in districts like Nellore, Kurnool, and Tirupati, with decreases of 35.1%, 30.9%, and 22.4%, respectively. However, a few districts—such as Parvathipuram Manyam, Sri Sathya Sai, and Alluri Sitharama Raju—showed increases in persondays, offering a positive contrast to the overall downward trend.

A caste-wise analysis revealed disparities in employment opportunities, with Scheduled Castes and "Others" experiencing significant declines, while Scheduled Tribes saw a slight improvement, suggesting that certain targeted interventions might have been effective for specific groups. Additionally, while the fact that worker inclusions outnumbered deletions signals positive progress, the scale of inclusions remains insufficient to address the overall impact of past deletions. It is crucial to maintain this momentum in the coming months.

To reverse the declining trend in employment generation and ensure the sustainability of MGNREGA in Andhra Pradesh, closer collaboration between the state and central governments is necessary. Such a partnership could help address compliance issues while providing support to districts struggling with implementation. Targeted interventions for vulnerable groups and districts will be essential to revitalise employment opportunities and secure the long-term success of the program.

Annexure 1

S. No	District	Deleted workers	Added workers	Net deletions workers
1	ALLURI SITHARAMA RAJU	11318	12352	-1034
2	ANAKAPALLI	5580	6457	-877
3	ANANTAPUR	27618	27483	135
4	ANNAMAYYA	6003	14274	-8271
5	BAPATLA	5468	8608	-3140
6	CHITTOOR	7230	24810	-17580
7	EAST GODAVARI	47060	9810	37250
8	ELURU	13340	18765	-5425
9	GUNTUR	3437	6278	-2841
10	KAKINADA	7618	17938	-10320
11	KONASEEMA	2194	7496	-5302
12	KRISHNA	2298	3444	-1146
13	KURNOOL	10802	15738	-4936
14	NANDYAL	3187	9269	-6082
15	NELLORE	8281	26943	-18662
16	NTR	3381	10295	-6914
17	PALNADU	5970	26492	-20522
18	PARVATHIPURAM MANYAM	5037	4612	425
19	PRAKASAM	6298	10514	-4216
20	SRI SATHYA SAI	33855	29337	4518
21	SRIKAKULAM	8454	10784	-2330
22	TIRUPATI	15477	12519	2958
23	VISAKHAPATANAM	1319	946	373
24	VIZIANAGARAM	7429	7039	390
25	WEST GODAVARI	9759	10105	-346
26	Y.S.R	26239	11117	15122
	Total	284652	343425	-58773

About LibTech

We are a team of engineers, social workers and social scientists who are interested in improving public service delivery in India. We have been working as a team in multiple states of the country including Andhra Pradesh for the last 10 years, though individually some of us have been involved for more than a decade.

Team Behind This Report:

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