MGNREGA Employment Trends in Telangana: April to September 2024 – Comparative Analysis and Key Insights

- LibTech India

About this report

This report presents insights on MGNREGA performance in Telangana for Apr-Sep[1] 2024 period. This report also provides comparative analysis of MGNREGA employment scenario in the state in the current financial year[2] with the previous financial year i.e. 2023-24 during Apr-Sep months. The data in the report is sourced from https://nrega.nic.in/ as of 06-10-2024. Our aim is to provide citizens and stakeholders with insights into the present status of MGNREGA implementation in Telangana.

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[1] April to September
[2] April to March period of any year is considered as one financial year

1. Key Statistics

Table 1 illustrates key statistics for Telangana in comparison to the rest of the country for the period Apr-Sep 2024.

Table 1: *Key MGNREGA statistics for the country vs. Telangana*

S.No.	Metric	Telangana	Country	Proportion of Telangana
1	Total Number of Districts	32	740	-
2	Total Number of Mandals(Blocks)	540	7,181	-
3	Total Number of Panchayats	12,771	2,68,925	-
4	Jobcards[3] Issued (lakhs) as on 6th October 2024	53.07	1,429	3.7%
5	Total Number of Active Jobcards[4] (lakhs) as on 6th October 2024	34.53	916	3.8%
6	Total Number of Active Workers[5] (lakhs) as on 6th October 2024	58.92	1,317	4.5%
7	Persondays[6] Generated in FY 24-25 (crores)	10.35	157.59	6.6%
8	Unique Households(HHs)[7] worked in FY 24-25 (Lakhs)	25.33	452.72	-
9	Average Persondays per Households(HHs)[8]	40.9	34.81	-

2. Employment at State Level

2.1 Comprehensive Analysis of Employment Metrics and Trends in Telangana
- *27.1% rise in persondays generated in FY 2024-25 compared to previous financial year.*

As a demand-driven employment program, MGNREGA is expected to align with the demand from workers. However, in recent years, the Union government's control over budget allocations, coupled with varying levels of political will and administrative capacity among

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[3] An authorised document issued by the Govt at Household level. Crucial for MGNREGA participation.
[4] A Jobcard with a record of at least one worker engaging in MGNREGA employment for a minimum of one day within the past three financial years
[5] A worker who has been engaged in MGNREGA employment for at least one day within the past three financial years.
[6] Number of work days completed under MGNREGA by the jobcard holders
[7] Each Jobcard is considered as one Household
[8] Persondays Generated / Unique Households Worked

states, has influenced the program's implementation. This makes it essential to analyse employment-related data to assess MGNREGA's effectiveness in Telangana.

Despite a decline in household participation at the national level, Telangana recorded an increase in the number of households employed in FY 2024-25 compared to the previous year (refer to Table 2).

Similarly, while persondays generated across the country have seen a significant decline, Telangana recorded a notable increase of 27.1% during the same period (refer to Table 2).

Overall, Telangana's performance under MGNREGA, as indicated by both household participation and persondays generated, reflects a more robust execution of the program in contrast to the declining national trends. This performance underscores the state's ability to sustain employment through the scheme despite challenges at the national level.

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

	Telangana			India		
	Apr-Sep 23-24	Apr-Sep 24-25	Variation (%)	Apr-Sep 23-24	Apr-Sep 24-25	Variation (%)
Unique Households worked (in lakhs)	21.68	25.33	16.8	489	452.72	- 7.4
Persondays Generated (in lakhs)	814	1035	27.1	18802.55	15758.83	- 16.2

2.2 Employment at District Level

- *Sangareddy recorded the highest drop of 6.5% in persondays from 46 lakh in FY 2023-24 to 43 lakh in FY 2024-25*

Figure 1 illustrates that In comparison to FY 2023-24, the current financial year witnessed an upsurge in persondays generated for 29 districts in the state while only 3 districts (Rangareddy, Wanaparthy and Sangareddy) recorded downsurge. The top three districts with highest rise in persondays in current financial year are Kamareddy(81.5%), Mulugu(66.1%) and Warangal(66%). Whereas Sangareddy witnessed the highest drop of 6.5% from around 46 lakh in FY 2023-24 to 43 lakh in the current financial year. Please refer to Figure 1 for more details.
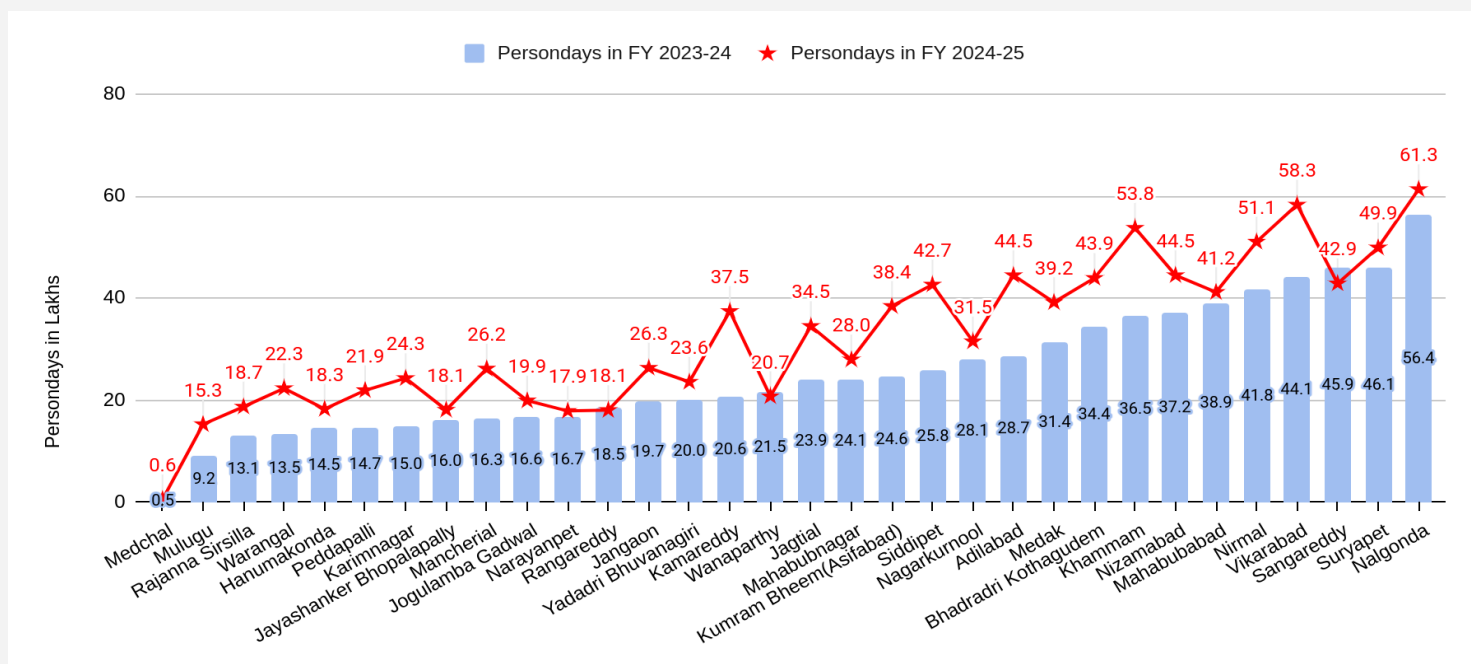
Figure 1: *District-wise comparison of persondays generated in FY 2023-24 and 2024-25*

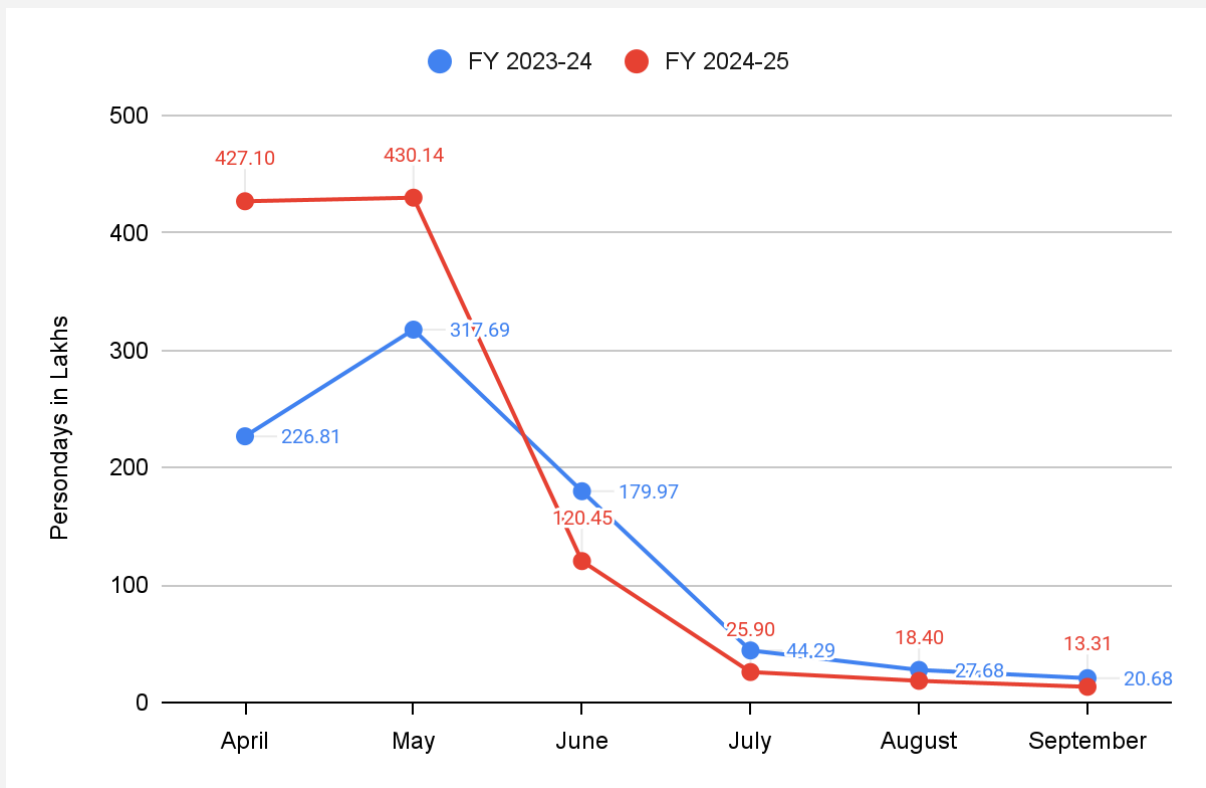## 2.3 Month-wise Persondays Generated in Telangana[9]

- *The month of July 2024 saw the highest drop of 41.5% in persondays in the state*

In FY 2024-25, MGNREGA saw a strong start, with high persondays recorded in April and May compared to the same period last year, reflecting a vigorous beginning to the year. However, on 16th May 2024, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) wrote to the Telangana state government, highlighting this significant employment generation in April while also flagging violations in the scheme's implementation—specifically, the failure to adhere to the 60% expenditure guideline on agriculture and allied activities—and urged immediate corrective action. Interestingly, this directive from the Union government came just after one and a half months of employment generation, which is unusual, as the state could have adjusted to the 60% expenditure rule by the financial year-end. *Click here to access the full letter.*

Following this, a sharp and rapid decline in persondays is observed from June onward, as illustrated in the Figure 2, where persondays drop drastically by July and remain low through August and September. The contrast between the initial surge in April-May and the sharp decline thereafter suggests that the state's response to the Ministry's directive may have affected the program's execution, resulting in stabilisation at much lower levels in the latter half of the first six months of FY 2024-25. Overall, this situation underscores the difficulties

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[9] Since the MGNREGA MIS updates the data regularly, a variation of 0.4% is observed in persondays when accessed in October 2023 and October 2024.

in sustaining employment generation under MGNREGA amidst shifting directives and operational challenges.

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

3. Conclusion

The analysis of MGNREGA implementation in Telangana for the financial year 2024-25 demonstrates a positive trajectory, with the state outperforming national trends. While the rest of the country witnessed around 16% decline in persondays generated, Telangana recorded a remarkable 27% increase, highlighting effective implementation of the scheme at the state level.

Most districts in Telangana showed a rise in employment generation, with Kamareddy, Mulugu, and Warangal standing out for their strong performance. Although a few districts experienced slight declines in persondays, the overall state-wide trend remains encouraging.

However, the significant drop in persondays from June onwards, after a promising start in April and May, aligns with increased pressure from the Union government. The Ministry of Rural Development's letter to the Telangana state government in mid-May appears to have impacted the program's execution, leading to a reduction in employment generation. This

suggests that the Centre's intervention may have hindered the state's ability to maintain its initial momentum, reflecting a broader issue of central influence over state-level welfare schemes.

In conclusion, Telangana's success in increasing employment under MGNREGA, despite national-level declines, underscores the state's capability in executing the program effectively. However, the Centre's influence over program implementation raises questions about the need for greater state autonomy to ensure that local needs and priorities are met without external pressures. A more collaborative approach could enhance the scheme's effectiveness in supporting the livelihoods of vulnerable communities.

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 Telangana for the last 10 years, though individually some of us have been involved for more than a decade.

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