PRESS RELEASE
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MGNREGA Employment Collapses in Telangana: LibTech India Tracker (Apr–Sep 2025)

LibTech India's six-monthly MGNREGA Tracker reveals a severe contraction of employment generation in Telangana during April–September 2025. The collapse began unusually early — in April and May — and the programme never recovered in the subsequent months.

🔥 Major Findings

1. Sharp contraction in employment

Telangana recorded a **47.6% decline in persondays generated** between April–September 2025 compared to the same period last year. Nationally, the decline was just **10.4%**, indicating a much sharper contraction in Telangana.

The number of households that received any employment fell from **25.33 lakh to 19.94 lakh**, a **21.3% decline**. Average workdays per household dropped from **41 days to 27 days**, indicating that the primary reason for income loss was lack of employment, not wage levels.

District-wise data confirms the depth of the collapse.
The steepest declines in persondays occurred in:

- **Medchal (–92.8%)**
- **Jogulamba Gadwal (–72.6%)**
- **Kamareddy (–68.7%)**
- **Nizamabad (–67.1%)**

Others such as **Adilabad (–18%)**, **Nalgonda (–24.3%)**, **Yadadri Bhuvanagiri (–34.3%)**, and **Siddipet (–34.7%)** show moderate declines, but still significant.

The decline cuts across all social groups — persondays fell for **SC (–48.3%)**, **ST (–41.7%)**, and **Others (–49.5%)** — showing the slowdown is systemic, not concentrated in any specific community.

> "The collapse happened at the beginning — MGNREGA never picked up this year."

2. Workers earned less because work was not provided

The notified MGNREGA wage increased from **₹300/day (2024–25) to ₹307/day (2025–26)**.

However, due to the drop in workdays, households earned far less.
On average, a household earned **₹1,686 less** — a **19.4% fall in annual earnings**.
Had the same number of persondays as last year been provided, households would have earned **about ₹3,500 more**.

> "Households lost work, not wages."

3. Jobcard deletions continue — no reinstatement phase

During the Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS) push in 2022–23, **over 5.1 lakh jobcards were deleted** in Telangana. After such mass deletions, reinstatements are normally expected.

However, deletions are still continuing in 2025–26, and no systematic reinstatement drive has taken place.

4. eKYC digitally excludes workers

Even though Aadhaar eKYC completion has improved, **53+ lakh registered workers** in Telangana remain **not eKYC-eligible**, risking wage delays or denial.

- Telangana workers eKYC-eligible: **48.5%**
- National average: **29.3%**

The data shows that exclusion risk is systemic, not Telangana-specific.

> "Digital conditions, not demand, are deciding who gets work."

🚨 LibTech India: Immediate Calls to Action

To Government of Telangana

- Restore predictable work allocation across districts.
- Initiate a jobcard reinstatement drive to correct wrongful deletions.
- Monitor districts that show extreme contraction (Medchal, Jogulamba Gadwal, Kamareddy, Nizamabad).

To Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)

- Revoke mandatory Aadhaar eKYC requirement for accessing work and wages.
- Initiate consultations with civil society organisations to design inclusion-first digital processes.

About the Tracker

The LibTech India MGNREGA Tracker is used by journalists, CSOs, and policymakers to monitor employment generation and exclusion trends under the world's largest social protection programme.

Access full report Here