

A Lifelong Commitment to the Progress of the Perki Community

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By Former President of Perki Samaj (Since 1992)

#### Introduction

The story of the *Perki Samaj* is one of perseverance, unity, and collective growth. Since its formal establishment, our community has faced many challenges but has always risen through dedication and vision.

In 1992, I was unanimously elected as the **President of the Perki Samaj**, a moment that marked the beginning of a long journey dedicated to **awareness**, **organization**, **and empowerment**. What follows is not merely a personal account — it is the story of how a scattered community found its collective strength.

### The Beginning of Awareness and Unity

In the early 1990s, very few among our people across **Nagpur**, **Yavatmal**, **Chandrapur**, **Bhandara**, **Gondia**, **and Gadchiroli** knew that we even had a *registered organization*. Only a few senior members and local leaders were aware of it.

Recognizing this gap, my first mission as president was to awaken the spirit of unity among our people.

"Awareness was our first victory — once people knew we were organized, everything else followed."

### Milestones in Social Organization

In 1993, with the valuable support of Mr. Madanrao Jiddewar (Secretary), we successfully organized a community mass marriage ceremony at Pandharkawda, where seven couples were married collectively — a milestone event that inspired others.

Soon after, at **Dongargaon** (**Tq. Armori**, **Dist. Gadchiroli**), with the cooperation of **Dr. Mahesh Kopulwar** and **Mr. Diwakarrao Pethewar**, we organized another **mass marriage** for 16 couples.

These gatherings not only provided social support but also became a **symbol of unity and equality** within our society.

# Building the Foundations — Infrastructure for the Future

When I took charge, the community lacked basic facilities. At that time, Yavatmal had a hostel in the name of **Sant Istari Maharaj**, but in Nagpur, we did not even have a place to hold meetings.

During my tenure as President, we made the following achievements:

- Purchased office space at Mohan Nagar, Nagpur, for meetings and administrative work
- Acquired a 7,000–8,000 sq. ft. plot at Pandharkawda for a community hostel or hall.
- Purchased a 12,000 sq. ft. plot at Gorewada, Nagpur, where a beautiful lawn was developed. I strongly believe this property should now be converted into a fully operational community hostel.
- Constructed the Yavatmal hostel building, ensuring long-term benefit for community students.

All of this was possible only due to the **unity**, **contribution**, **and faith** of our community members.

"Every brick laid was a symbol of trust — not in me, but in our collective dream."

## Advocacy and Representation

Between **2003** and **2008**, our community fought a significant battle for recognition. We organized several marches and demonstrations at the Nagpur Vidhan Bhavan, demanding that the *Perki Samaj* be included under the Nomadic Tribes (NT) category.

Though the government did not grant approval, the movement became a symbol of **our community's persistence and solidarity**.

### A Vision for the New Executive Committee

Today, a **new executive committee** has been elected, and I extend my **heartfelt congratulations** to all its members.

However, for true progress, I humbly urge the committee to take these important steps:

### 1. Set aside personal differences and disputes.

Withdraw all ongoing court cases for the greater good of the Samaj.

#### 2. Rebuild and strengthen our community assets:

- o Renovate the **Yavatmal hostel building**, which is now in a poor condition.
- o Develop the **Pandharkawda community hall** into a modern, functional space.
- o Consider selling the Gorewada property, which currently holds a market value of approximately ₹3–3.5 crore, and purchase a new 2-acre plot in a prime

area (such as Kamptee Road, Nagpur) for future development and income generation.

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# 3. **Reinstate traditional programs** such as:

- o District-level gatherings
- Student award ceremonies
- o Introductory and matrimonial meets
- Community mass marriages

#### A Call to the New Generation

Friends, our *Perki Samaj* today is far more advanced than it once was. We have achieved **significant educational, economic, and social growth** But now, it is the **younger generation's turn** to take this progress forward.

Our educated youth — doctors, engineers, lawyers, entrepreneurs, and professionals — must come together to serve the community with dedication of mind, body, and wealth (Tan, Man, Dhan).

Let us work collectively to strengthen our educational and economic base and ensure every family feels proud to belong to the *Perki Samaj*.

# Looking Ahead: Nagpur Gathering 2025

As we prepare for the upcoming **Perki Samaj Gathering in Nagpur on 12th October 2025**, I extend my **heartfelt congratulations** to the organizing team and every member contributing to this great cause.

May this event mark yet another milestone in our shared journey — a celebration of unity, awareness, and collective strength.

"Our strength lies not in numbers, but in togetherness."

#### In Closing

The progress we have achieved is the result of decades of cooperation, vision, and collective will.Let us continue this journey with **renewed energy and shared purpose** — for our children, for our elders, and for the generations yet to come.

Together, we can ensure that the *Perki Samaj* continues to shine as a symbol of progress, unity, and dignity.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Let the new leadership work not for recognition, but for reconciliation."