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News: Kudumbasree

- Recently, the President of India has inaugurated the 25th anniversary celebrations of Kudumbashree, the largest Self-Help Group (SHG) network in the country.

Kudumbashree

- Kudumbashree was established in 1997 in Kerala, aiming at eradicating poverty and empowering women following the recommendations of a government-appointed task force.
- The mission was launched with the support of the Government of India and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development).
- Kudumbashree meaning 'prosperity of the family' in the Malayalam language and therefore focuses on poverty alleviation and women empowerment, promoting democratic leadership and provides support structures within the "Kudumbashree family".
- **Operation:** The mission operates through a Three-Tier structure consisting of,
 - Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs) at the primary level
 - Area Development Societies (ADS) at the ward level

- **Community Development Societies (CDS)** at the local government level.
- This structure forms a large network of Self-Help Groups.

Goal

- The **goal of Kudumbashree is to eliminate absolute poverty within a specific timeframe of 10 years**, with the active involvement of local self-governments.
- Through its mission and self-help group approach, **Kudumbashree aims to uplift families and empower women to improve their socio-economic status and overall well-being.**

Significance

- It has **empowered women, generated employment, alleviated poverty, and initiated various social initiatives.**
- It has become **Kerala's biggest social capital**, and its members have become **elected representatives in local government bodies.**
- During a **severe flood that occurred in Kerala five years ago**, Kudumbashree, **the self-help group network, donated Rs 7 crore** to the Chief Minister's distress relief fund.
- They **contributed more money than tech giants like Google and Apple and even surpassed the contribution of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.**

- Many of the Kudumbashree workers themselves were victims of the flood, but they still wanted to help others by contributing to the relief fund.