

# Unnathi programme launched during silver jubilee of Kudumbashree

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**In news**– President of India has inaugurated the silver jubilee celebration of 'Kudumbashree' and also launched 'Unnathi', an umbrella programme.

## What is 'Kudumbashree' ?

- Kudumbashree is the **poverty eradication and women empowerment programme implemented by the State Poverty Eradication Mission (SPEM) of the Government of Kerala.**
- **The name Kudumbashree in Malayalam language means 'prosperity of the family'.**
- The **name represents 'Kudumbashree Mission' or SPEM** as well as the Kudumbashree Community Network.
- What is commonly referred to as 'Kudumbashree' could mean either the Kudumbashree Community Network, or the Kudumbashree Mission, or both.
- **It was set up in 1997** following the recommendations of a three member Task Force appointed by the State government.
- **Its formation was in the context of the devolution of powers to the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs)** in Kerala, and the Peoples' Plan Campaign, which attempted to draw up the Ninth Plan of the local governments from below through the PRIs.
- **Kudumbashree has a three-tier structure** for its women community network,
  - Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs) at the lowest level.
  - Area Development Societies (ADS) at the middle level, and
  - Community Development Societies (CDS) at the local

government level.

- The community structure that Kudumbashree accepted is the one that evolved from the experiments in Alappuzha Municipality and Malappuram in early 1990s.
- **In 2011, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India recognised Kudumbashree as the State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM)** under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).
- It is arguably one of the largest women's networks in the world.
- While the community network is formed around the central themes of poverty eradication and women empowerment, its main features include democratic leadership, and support structures formed from the 'Kudumbashree family'.
- The Kudumbashree that began as a poverty alleviation mission had become a women empowerment model known around the world.
- A large number of women representatives in local bodies had entered public life through their involvement in Kudumbashree.

**Note-** 'Unnathi' is an umbrella programme to create opportunities for employment among the youth belonging to SC and ST communities.