**Project signing: World Bank to support Kerala through climate resilience program**

Kerala to receive 1726 crore rupees as loan from the World Bank through Resilient Kerala Programme to enhance the state’s resilience against the impacts of natural disasters and climate change. The Government of India, Government of Kerala and World Bank signed the loan agreement today. The program, which represents the first **‘state partnership’** of the World Bank in India, is the first of two Development Policy Operations aiming to mainstream disaster and climate resilience into critical infrastructure and services. The loan agreement was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare on behalf of the Government of India; Manoj Joshi, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, on behalf of the Government of Kerala; and Junaid Ahmad, Country Director, World Bank India.

The 2018 floods and landslides in Kerala led to severe impact on property, infrastructure, and lives and livelihoods of people. One sixth of the state’s population - about 54 lakh people - was affected while 14 lakh lives were displaced from their homes. The Resilient Kerala Program will focus on strengthening the state's institutional and financial capacity to protect the assets and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable groups through an inclusive and participatory approach.

The program aims to support the state with:

* improved river basin planning and water infrastructure operations management, water supply and sanitation services
* resilient and sustainable agriculture, enhanced agriculture risk insurance
* improved resilience of the core road network
* unified and more up-to-date land records in high risk areas
* risk-based urban planning and strengthened expenditure planning by urban local bodies
* strengthened fiscal and public financial management capacity of the state

“The Bank support through this program will not only bring about additional financial resources but also help leverage other development partners and connect the state to lessons from global good practices,” said **Balakrishna Menon**, World Bank India Task Team Leader for the program.

Kerala has been receiving support from the World Bank in various projects since floods last year.