



# List of chief ministers of West Bengal

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The **Chief Minister of West Bengal** is the chief executive of the eastern Indian state of West Bengal. As per the Constitution of India, the governor is a state's *de jure* head, but *de facto* executive authority rests with the chief minister. Following elections to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, the state's governor usually invites the party (or coalition) with a majority of seats to form the government. The governor appoints the chief minister, whose council of ministers are collectively responsible to the assembly. Given that he has the confidence of the assembly, the chief minister's term is for five years and is subject to no term limits.<sup>[1]</sup>

West Bengal origins lie in Bengal, a province of the British Raj that included present-day Bangladesh. Between 1937 and 1947 it was intermittently governed by a popularly elected ministry, whose head is often designated the Premier of Bengal. In 1947, Bengal province was partitioned into the Indian state of West Bengal and East Pakistan. All three erstwhile Bengal premiers—A. K. Fazlul Huq, Khawaja Nazimuddin and H. S. Suhrawardy—became Pakistani citizens; the latter two went on to become Prime Ministers of Pakistan in the 1950s.

Since 1947, there have been eight Chief Ministers of West Bengal. The first was Prafulla Chandra Ghosh of the Indian National Congress, who was succeeded by his party-mates Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy and Prafulla Chandra Sen. A decade of instability followed, marred by fractious coalition governments and frequent impositions of President's rule. The instability ended with 1977 election victory of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM). Headed by Jyoti Basu, the CPM-led Left Front government was in office for over 23 years (1977–2000). Left rule in West Bengal continued for another 10 years under Buddhadeb

## Chief Minister of West Bengal



**Incumbent**  
**Mamata Banerjee**  
since 20 May 2011

<b>Residence</b>	30B, Harish Chatterjee Street, Kalighat, Kolkata-700026
<b>Seat</b>	Bhawanipore
<b>Appointer</b>	Governor of West Bengal
<b>Inaugural holder</b>	Prafulla Chandra Ghosh
<b>Formation</b>	15 August 1947 (as Premier of West Bengal)

Bhattacharya, before its defeat in the 2011 election by the Trinamool Congress. Appointed on 20 May 2011, Trinamool leader Mamata Banerjee is the current incumbent, the state's first woman chief minister.

## Colour key for parties

<span style="background-color: #008000; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	<u>All-India Muslim League</u>
<span style="background-color: #00FF00; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	<u>All India Trinamool Congress</u>
<span style="background-color: #0000FF; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	<u>Bangla Congress</u>
<span style="background-color: #FFFFFF; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist)</u>
<span style="background-color: #808080; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	<u>Independent</u>
<span style="background-color: #FFFFFF; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	<u>Indian National Congress</u>
<span style="background-color: #FF0000; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	<u>Krishak Praja Party</u>
<span style="background-color: #FFFFFF; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	<u>N/A (President's rule)</u>

## Prime Minister of Bengal



Following partition, the former premiers of Bengal—A. K. Fazlul Huq, Khawaja Nazimuddin and H. S. Suhrawardy—all became Pakistani citizens. The latter two became Prime Ministers of Pakistan in the 1950s.

No	Name	Took office <sup>[2]</sup>	Left office	Duration	Election	Party	
1	<u>A. K. Fazlul Huq</u> <sup>[a]</sup>	1 April 1937	1 December 1941	5 years, 351 days	<u>1937</u>	<u>Krishak Praja Party</u>	
		12 December 1941	29 March 1943				
2	<u>Khawaja Nazimuddin</u>	29 April 1943	31 March 1945	2 years, 2 days		<u>All-India Muslim League</u>	
3	<u>H. S. Suhrawardy</u>	23 April 1946	14 August 1947	1 year, 113 days	<u>1946</u>		

## Chief Ministers of West Bengal

No <sup>[b]</sup>	Name	Took	Left	Duration	<u>Assembly</u> <sup>[6]</sup>	Party <sup>[7]</sup>
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Writers' Building, an 18th-century Company-era construction in Kolkata, serves as the office of West Bengal's chief Minister.



The first Chief Minister of West Bengal, Prafulla Chandra Ghosh, at Writers' in 1947



The Presidential Standard of India. Between 1968 and 1977, West Bengal came under President's rule on four occasions.

		office <sup>[4][5]</sup>	office		(election)		(alliance)
Premier of West Bengal							
1	<u>Prafulla Chandra Ghosh</u>	15 August 1947	22 January 1948	160 days	<i>Not yet created</i>	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	rowspan=2 width="4px" style="background-color: <u>Template:Indian National</u>



With over 23 years in office, Jyoti Basu of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) is India's second longest-serving chief minister.



Basu's successor Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, who served for over 10 years

							<u>Congress/meta/color"</u> 
2	<u>Bidhan Chandra Roy</u>	23 January 1948	25 January 1950	2 years, 2 days			
Chief Minister of West Bengal							
(2)	<u>Bidhan Chandra Roy</u> Bowbazar	26 January 1950	30 March 1952	12 years, 156 days (total: 14 years, 158 days)	<i>Not yet created</i>	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	rowspan=5 style="background-color: Template:Indian National Congress/meta/color" 

		31 March 1952	5 April 1957		First Assembly (1952–57) (January 1952 election)		
		6 April 1957	2 April 1962		Second Assembly (1957–62) (March 1957 election)		
		3 April 1962	1 July 1962		Third Assembly (1962–67) (February 1962 election)		
3	<u>Prafulla Chandra Sen</u> <sup>[c]</sup> Arambagh East	1 July 1962	28 February 1967	4 years, 242 days			
4	<u>Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee</u> Tamluk	1 March 1967	21 November 1967	265 days	Fourth Assembly (1967–68) (February 1967 election)	Bangla Congress (United Front)	
(1)	<u>Prafulla Chandra Ghosh</u> Jhargram	21 November 1967	19 February 1968	90 days (total: 250 days)		Independent (Progressive Democratic Front)	
–	<i>Vacant</i> <sup>[d]</sup> (President's rule)	20 February 1968	25 February 1969	1 year, 5 days	<i>Dissolved</i>	N/A	
(4)	<u>Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee</u> Tamluk	25 February 1969	30 July 1970	1 year, 155 days	Fifth Assembly (1969–70) (February 1969 election)	Bangla Congress (United Front)	
–	<i>Vacant</i> <sup>[d]</sup> (President's rule)	30 July 1970	2 March 1971	215 days	<i>Dissolved</i>	N/A	
(4)	<u>Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee</u> Tamluk	2 April 1971	25 June 1971	84 days (total: 2 years, 139 days)	Sixth Assembly (1971) (March 1971 election)	Indian National Congress	style="background-color: <u>Template:Indian National Congress/meta/color</u> " 
–	<i>Vacant</i> <sup>[d]</sup> (President's rule)	25 June 1971	19 March 1972	268 days	<i>Dissolved</i>	N/A	
5	<u>Siddhartha Shankar Ray</u> Malda	20 March 1972	30 April 1977	5 years, 41 days	Seventh Assembly (1972–77) (March 1972 election)	Indian National Congress	style="background-color: <u>Template:Indian National Congress/meta/color</u> " 
–	<i>Vacant</i> <sup>[d]</sup> (President's rule)	30 April 1977	20 June 1977	51 days	<i>Dissolved</i>	N/A	
6	<u>Jyoti Basu</u> Satgacchia	21 June 1977	23 May 1982	23 years, 137 days	Eighth Assembly	Communist Party of	rowspan=8 style="background-

					(1977–82) (June 1977 election)	India (Marxist) (Left Front)	color: Template:Communist Party of India (Marxist)/meta/color" 
		24 May 1982	29 March 1987		Ninth Assembly (1982–87) (May 1982 election)		
		30 March 1987	18 June 1991		Tenth Assembly (1987–91) (March 1987 election)		
		19 June 1991	15 May 1996		Eleventh Assembly (1991–96) (May 1991 election)		
		16 May 1996	5 November 2000		Twelfth Assembly (1996– 2001) (May 1996 election)		
7	Buddhadeb Bhattacharya Jadavpur	6 November 2000	14 May 2001	10 years, 188 days	Thirteenth Assembly (2001–06) (May 2001 election)		
		15 May 2001	17 May 2006		Fourteenth Assembly (2006–11) (April–May 2006 election)		
		18 May 2006	13 May 2011				
8	Mamata Banerjee Bhabanipur	20 May 2011	25 May 2016	12 years, 324 days	Fifteenth Assembly (2011–16) (April–May 2011 election)	All India Trinamool Congress	
		27 May 2016	<i>Incumbent</i>		Sixteenth Assembly (2016–21) (April–May 2016 election)		

## See also

- List of Governors of West Bengal

- List of rulers of Bengal

## Notes

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### Footnotes

- a. During Fazlul Huq's first term (1937–41), his ministry was formed in coalition with the Muslim League. His second government (1941–43), on the other hand, was propped up by eight parties, with the Muslim League in opposition.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b. A number inside brackets indicates that the incumbent has previously held office.
- c. During 1–8 July 1962, Sen was acting Chief Minister of West Bengal. He was sworn-in as full-time chief minister on 9 July.
- d. President's rule may be imposed when the "government in a state is not able to function as per the Constitution", which often happens because no party or coalition has a majority in the assembly. When President's rule is in force in a state, its council of ministers stands dissolved. The office of chief minister thus lies vacant, and the administration is taken over by the governor, who functions on behalf of the central government. At times, the legislative assembly also stands dissolved.<sup>[8]</sup>

### References

1. Durga Das Basu. *Introduction to the Constitution of India*. 1960. 20th Edition, 2011 Reprint. pp. 241, 245. LexisNexis Butterworths Wadhwa Nagpur. ISBN 978-81-8038-559-9. Note: although the text talks about Indian state governments in general, it applies for the specific case of West Bengal as well.
2. Premiers of Bengal (<http://wbassembly.gov.in/html/premiersOfBen.html>). West Bengal Legislative Assembly. Retrieved on 12 June 2014.
3. De, Amalendu; Rahim, Enayetur (2012). "Huq, AK Fazlul" ([http://en.banglapedia.org/index.php?title=Huq,\\_AK\\_Fazlul](http://en.banglapedia.org/index.php?title=Huq,_AK_Fazlul)). In Islam, Sirajul; Jamal, Ahmed A. (eds.). *Banglapedia: National Encyclopedia of Bangladesh* (Second ed.). Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.
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8. Amberish K. Diwanji. "A dummy's guide to President's rule" (<http://www.rediff.co.in/news/2005/mar/15spec1.htm>). Rediff.com. 15 March 2005.

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