



# List of chief ministers of Kerala



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The **Chief Minister of Kerala** is the chief executive of the Indian state of Kerala. 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 Kerala 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>[2]</sup>

The origins of Kerala lie in the princely states of Travancore and Cochin. Following India's independence from the British Raj in 1947, these states' rulers instituted a measure of representative government, headed by a Premier and his Council of Ministers. On 1 July 1949 Travancore and Cochin were merged to form Travancore-Cochin state. In 1956, the States Reorganisation Act redrew India's map along linguistic lines, and the present-day state of Kerala was born, comprising solely Malayalam-speaking districts.

Since 1957, 12 people have served as the Chief Minister of Kerala. The first was E. M. S. Namboodiripad of the Communist Party of India, whose tenure was cut short by the imposition of President's rule. Since 1980 the office has alternated between leaders of the Indian National Congress and of the Communist Party of India (Marxist). The incumbent chief minister is Pinarayi Vijayan of the CPI(M), who was sworn in on 25 May 2016.

## Premiers of Travancore

No	Name	Term <sup>[3][4]</sup> (tenure length)			Assembly (election)	Party	
1	Pattom A. Thanu Pillai	24 March 1948	17 October 1948	210 days	Representative Body (1948–49)	Indian National Congress	rowspan=2 width="4px" style="background-color: Template:Indian National Congress/meta/color"
2	Parur T. K. Narayana Pillai	22 October 1948	1 July 1949	253 days			

## Premiers of Cochin

No	Name	Term <sup>[3]</sup> (tenure length)			Assembly (election)	Party	
1	Panampilly Govinda Menon	14 August 1947	22 October 1947	51 days	Sixth Council (1945–48)	None	
2	T. K. Nair	27 October 1947	20 September 1948	334 days			
3	E. Ikkanda Warriar	20 September 1948	30 June 1949	283 days	Legislative Assembly (1948–49)		

## Chief Ministers of Travancore-Cochin






After India's independence in 1947, Travancore and Cochin were merged to form Travancore-Cochin on 1 July 1949. On 1 January 1950, Travancore-Cochin was recognised as a state.








Chief Minister of Kerala	
<div></div> <div><b>Incumbent</b> <b>Pinarayi Vijayan</b> since 25 May 2016</div>	
<b>Residence</b>	Cliff House, Nanathancode, Thiruvananthapuram <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Appointer</b>	Governor of Kerala
<b>Inaugural holder</b>	E. M. S. Namboodiripad
<b>Formation</b>	5 April 1957







No	Name	Term <sup>[3]</sup> (tenure length)			Assembly (election)	Party <sup>[a]</sup>	
1	<u>Parur T. K. Narayana Pillai</u>	1 July 1949	1 March 1951	1 year, 243 days	First Assembly (1949–51)	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	rowspan=3 width="4px" style="background-color: <u>Template:Indian National Congress/meta/color</u> "
2	<u>C. Kesavan</u>	3 March 1951	12 March 1952	1 year, 11 days			
3	<u>A. J. John</u>	12 March 1952	16 March 1954	2 years, 4 days	Second Assembly (1952–53) (1951 election)		
4	<u>Pattom A. Thanu Pillai</u>	16 March 1954	10 February 1955	331 days	Third Assembly (1954–56) (1954 election)	<u>Praja Socialist Party</u>	width="4px" style="background-color: <u>Template:Praja Socialist Party/meta/color</u> "
5	<u>Panampilly Govinda Menon</u>	10 February 1955	23 March 1956	1 year, 42 days		<u>Indian National Congress</u>	width="4px" style="background-color: <u>Template:Indian National Congress/meta/color</u> "
–	<i>Vacant</i> <sup>[b]</sup> (President's rule)	23 March 1956	5 April 1957	1 year, 13 days	<i>Dissolved</i>	N/A	

## Chief Ministers of Kerala

The Government of India's 1 November 1956 States Reorganisation Act inaugurated the new Kerala state, incorporating Malabar District, Travancore-Cochin (excluding 4 southern Taluks which were merged with Tamil Nadu), and the taluk of Kasaragod, South Kanara. A new Legislative Assembly was also created, for which elections were held in 1957.

No <sup>[c]</sup>	Name		Term <sup>[6][7]</sup> (tenure length)			Assembly <sup>[8]</sup> (election)	Party <sup>[a]</sup>	
1	E. M. S. Namboodiripad MLA for Nileschwaram		5 April 1957	31 July 1959	848 days	First Assembly (1957–59) (1957 election)	Communist Party of India	width="4px" style="background-color: Template:Communist Party of India/meta/color"
–	<i>Vacant</i> <sup>[b]</sup> (President's rule)		31 July 1959	22 February 1960		<i>Dissolved</i>	N/A	
2	Pattom A. Thanu Pillai MLA for Trivandrum II		22 February 1960	26 September 1962	583 days	Second Assembly (1960–64) (1960 election)	Praja Socialist Party	width="4px" style="background-color: Template:Praja Socialist Party/meta/color"
3	R. Sankar MLA for Cannanore I	File:Chief Minister of Kerala 3 - R Shankar.jpg	26 September 1962	10 September 1964	715 days		Indian National Congress	style="background-color: Template:Indian National Congress/meta/color"
–	<i>Vacant</i> <sup>[b]</sup> (President's rule)		10 September 1964	6 March 1967		<i>Dissolved</i>	N/A	
(1)	E. M. S. Namboodiripad MLA for Pattambi		6 March 1967	1 November 1969	972 days [Total 1,820 days]	Third Assembly (1967–70) (1967 election)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	
4	C. Achutha Menon MLA for Kottarakkara	File:C achuthamenon.jpg	1 November 1969	1 August 1970	273 days		Communist Party of India	width="4px" style="background-color: Template:Communist Party of India/meta/color"
–	<i>Vacant</i> <sup>[b]</sup> (President's rule)		4 August 1970	3 October 1970		<i>Dissolved</i>	N/A	
(4)	C. Achutha Menon MLA for Kodakara	File:C achuthamenon.jpg	4 October 1970	25 March 1977	2,365 days [Total 2,638 days]	Fourth Assembly (1970–77) (1970 election)	Communist Party of India	width="4px" style="background-color: Template:Communist Party of India/meta/color"
5	K. Karunakaran MLA for Mala	File:Chief Minister of Kerala 5 - K. Karunakaran.jpg	25 March 1977	25 April 1977	32 days	Fifth Assembly (1977–79) (1977 election)	Indian National Congress	rowspan=2 width="4px" style="background-color: Template:Indian National Congress/meta/color"
6	A. K. Antony		27 April 1977	27 October 1978	550 days			

7	<u>P. K. Vasudevan Nair</u> MLA for Alleppey		29 October 1978	7 October 1979	343 days		<u>Communist Party of India</u>	width="4px" style="background-color: <u>Template:Communist Party of India/meta/color</u> "
8	<u>C. H. Mohammed Koya</u> MLA for Malappuram		12 October 1979	1 December 1979	51 days		<u>Indian Union Muslim League</u>	width="4px" style="background-color: <u>Template:Indian Union Muslim League/meta/color</u> "
–	<u>Vacant<sup>[b]</sup></u> (President's rule)		5 December 1979	25 January 1980		<i>Dissolved</i>	N/A	
9	<u>E. K. Nayanar</u> MLA for Malampuzha		25 January 1980	20 October 1981	635 days	Sixth Assembly (1980–82) (1980 election)	<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist)</u>	
–	<u>Vacant<sup>[b]</sup></u> (President's rule)		21 October 1981	28 December 1981			N/A	
(5)	<u>K. Karunakaran</u> MLA for Mala	File:Chief Minister of Kerala 5 - K. Karunakaran.jpg	28 December 1981	17 March 1982	81 days		<u>Indian National Congress</u>	width="4px" style="background-color: <u>Template:Indian National Congress/meta/color</u> "
–	<u>Vacant<sup>[b]</sup></u> (President's rule)		17 March 1982	23 May 1982		<i>Dissolved</i>	N/A	
(5)	<u>K. Karunakaran</u> MLA for Mala	File:Chief Minister of Kerala 5 - K. Karunakaran.jpg	24 May 1982	25 March 1987	1,766 days	Seventh Assembly (1982–87) (1982 election)	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	width="4px" style="background-color: <u>Template:Indian National Congress/meta/color</u> "
(9)	<u>E. K. Nayanar</u> MLA for Trikaripur		26 March 1987	17 June 1991	1,544 days	Eighth Assembly (1987–91) (1987 election)	<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist)</u>	
(5)	<u>K. Karunakaran</u> MLA for Mala	File:Chief Minister of Kerala 5 - K. Karunakaran.jpg	24 June 1991	16 March 1995	1,361 days [Total 3,240 days]	Ninth Assembly (1991–95) (1991 election)	<u>Indian National Congress</u>	rowspan=2 width="4px" style="background-color: <u>Template:Indian National Congress/meta/color</u> "
(6)	<u>A. K. Antony</u>		22 March 1995	9 May 1996	415 days			

(9)	E. K. Nayanar MLA for Tellicherry		20 May 1996	13 May 2001	1,820 days [Total 3,999 days]	Tenth Assembly (1996– 2001) (1996 election)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	
(6)	A. K. Antony MLA for Sherthalai		17 May 2001	29 August 2004	1,201 days [Total 2,166 days]	Eleventh Assembly (2001–06) (2001 election)	Indian National Congress	rowspan=2 width="4px" style="background- color: Template:Indian National Congress/meta/color" 
10	Oommen Chandy MLA for Puthuppally		31 August 2004	12 May 2006	626 days			
11	V. S. Achuthanandan MLA for Malampuzha		18 May 2006	14 May 2011	1,822 days	Twelfth Assembly (2006–11) (2006 election)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	
(10)	Oommen Chandy MLA for Puthuppally		18 May 2011	20 May 2016	1,829 days [Total 2,455 days]	Thirteenth Assembly (2011–16) (2011 election)	Indian National Congress	width="4px" style="background- color: Template:Indian National Congress/meta/color" 
12	Pinarayi Vijayan MLA for Dharmadam		25 May 2016	<i>Incumbent</i>	2875 days	Fourteenth Assembly (2016–21) (2016 election) <sup>[9]</sup>	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	

## See also

- List of Kerala ministers
- Deputy Chief Ministers of Kerala

## Notes

### Footnotes

- This column only names the chief minister's party. The state government he headed may have been a complex coalition of several parties and independents; these are not listed here.
- When **President's rule** is in force in a state, its council of ministers stands dissolved. The office of chief minister thus lies vacant. At times, the legislative assembly also stands dissolved.<sup>[5]</sup>
- A number inside brackets indicates that the incumbent has previously held office.

### References

- Official web site of the Government of Kerala, Page on the Chief Minister ([http://www.kerala.gov.in/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=95&Itemid=2285](http://www.kerala.gov.in/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=95&Itemid=2285)) Archived ([https://web.archive.org/web/20110514184919/http://www.kerala.gov.in/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=95&Itemid=2285](https://web.archive.org/web/20110514184919/http://www.kerala.gov.in/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=95&Itemid=2285)) 14 May 2011 at the Wayback Machine
- 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 Kerala as well.
- Responsible Governments (1947–56) ([http://www.niyamasabha.org/codes/ginfo\\_2\\_3.htm](http://www.niyamasabha.org/codes/ginfo_2_3.htm)). Kerala Legislature. Retrieved on 22 April 2014.

4. [http://kerala.gov.in/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3776:history-of-kerala-legislature](http://kerala.gov.in/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3776:history-of-kerala-legislature) Archived ([https://web.archive.org/web/20141006101549/http://kerala.gov.in/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3776%3Ahistory-of-kerala-legislature](https://web.archive.org/web/20141006101549/http://kerala.gov.in/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3776%3Ahistory-of-kerala-legislature)) 6 October 2014 at the [Wayback Machine](#)
5. 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.
6. [Chief Ministers of Kerala since 1957 \(http://www.niyamasabha.org/codes/ginfo\\_5.htm\)](http://www.niyamasabha.org/codes/ginfo_5.htm). Kerala Legislature. Retrieved on 22 April 2014.
7. [President's rule in Kerala \(http://www.niyamasabha.org/codes/ginfo\\_10.htm\)](http://www.niyamasabha.org/codes/ginfo_10.htm). Kerala Legislature. Retrieved on 22 April 2014.
8. [Duration of Each Assembly \(http://www.niyamasabha.org/codes/ginfo\\_11.htm\)](http://www.niyamasabha.org/codes/ginfo_11.htm). Kerala Legislature. Retrieved on 22 April 2014.
9. [Pinarayi Vijayan Government One Year \(http://specials.manoramaonline.com/News/2017/ldf-government-anniversary/index.html\)](http://specials.manoramaonline.com/News/2017/ldf-government-anniversary/index.html)

## External links

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- [Official website of Chief Minister of Kerala \(http://keralacm.gov.in\)](http://keralacm.gov.in)
  - [Official Biography \(http://niyamasabha.org/codes/Chief%20Ministers%20Book%20Final.pdf\)](http://niyamasabha.org/codes/Chief%20Ministers%20Book%20Final.pdf) *Chief Ministers, Ministers and Leaders of Opposition in Kerala at niyamasabha.org*
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