

# Governor

The **governor of Tamil Nadu** is the [head of state](#) of the [Indian](#) state of [Tamil Nadu](#). [Governors in India](#) have similar powers and functions at the state level as those of the [president of India](#) at the central level. They exist in the [state](#) appointed by the president of India for a term of five years and they are not local to the state that they are appointed to govern. The factors based on which the president evaluates the candidates is not mentioned in the [constitution](#). The governor acts as the nominal head whereas the real power lies with the [chief minister of the state](#) and their [council of ministers](#).

The [current incumbent](#) is [R. N. Ravi](#), who has served since 18 September 2021.

## Powers and functions[\[edit\]](#)

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See also: [Governors of India § Powers and functions](#)

The governor enjoys many different types of powers:

- **Executive powers** related to administration, appointments and removals,
- **Legislative powers** related to lawmaking and the state legislature, that is Vidhan Sabha or Vidhan Parishad, and
- **Discretionary powers** to be carried out according to the discretion of the Governor.

## Governors[\[edit\]](#)

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### Madras Presidency and Madras State[\[edit\]](#)

Headquartered in [Fort St. George](#), [Madras Presidency](#) was a province of [British India](#). It comprised present-day Tamil Nadu, the [Malabar region](#) of North [Kerala](#), the [coastal](#) and [Rayalaseema](#) regions of [Andhra Pradesh](#), and the [Bellary](#), [Dakshina Kannada](#), and [Udupi](#) districts of [Karnataka](#). It was established in 1653 to be the headquarters of the English settlements on the [Coromandel Coast](#). After India's [independence](#) in 1947, [Madras State](#), the precursor to the present day state of Tamil Nadu, was carved out of Madras Presidency. It comprised present-day Tamil Nadu and parts of present-day Karnataka and Kerala.<sup>[]</sup>

### Tabular[\[edit\]](#)

#	Name	Took office	Left office	Term <sup><span>[</span><span><span>nb</span></span><span>]</span></sup> <sup><span>[</span><span><span>1</span></span><span>]</span></sup>
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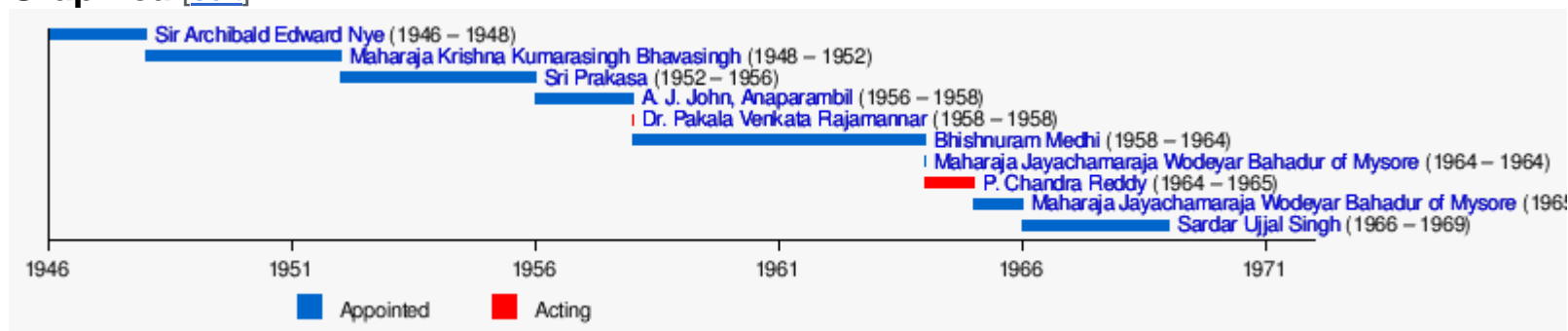
1	<a href="#">William Thomas Denison</a>	18 February 1861	26 November 1863	
2	Edward Maltby (acting)	26 November 1863	18 January 1864	
3	<a href="#">William Thomas Denison</a>	18 January 1864	27 March 1866	
4	<a href="#">Lord Napier</a>	27 March 1866	19 February 1872	
5	<a href="#">Alexander John Arbuthnot</a> (acting)	19 February 1872	15 May 1872	
6	<a href="#">Lord Hobart</a>	15 May 1872	29 April 1875	
7	William Rose Robinson (acting)	29 April 1875	23 November 1875	
8	<a href="#">Duke of Buckingham and Chandos</a>	23 November 1875	20 December 1880	
9	William Huddleston (acting)	24 May 1881	5 November 1881	
10	<a href="#">Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff</a>	5 November 1881	8 December 1886	

11	<a href="#">Robert Bourke, Baron Connemara</a>	8 December 1886	1 December 1890	
12	John Henry Garstin	1 December 1890	23 January 1891	
13	<a href="#">Bentley Lawley, Baron Wenlock</a>	23 January 1891	18 March 1896	
14	<a href="#">Arthur Elibank Havelock</a>	18 March 1896	28 December 1900	
15	<a href="#">Arthur Oliver Villiers-Russell, Baron Ampthill</a>	28 December 1900	30 April 1904	
16	James Thompson (acting)	30 April 1904	13 December 1904	
17	<a href="#">Arthur Oliver Villiers-Russell, Baron Ampthill</a>	13 December 1904	15 February 1906	
18	Gabriel Stoles (acting)	15 February 1906	28 March 1906	
19	<a href="#">Arthur Lawley, Baron Wenlock</a>	28 March 1906	3 November 1911	
20	<a href="#">Thomas David Gibson-Carmichael, Baron Carmichael</a>	3 November 1911	30 March 1912	

21	Sir Murray Hammick (acting)	30 March 1912	30 October 1912	
22	<a href="#">John Sinclair, Baron Pentland</a>	30 October 1912	29 March 1919	
23	<a href="#">Sir Alexander Gordon Cardew</a>	29 March 1919	10 April 1919	
24	<a href="#">George Freeman Freeman-Thomas, Baron Willingdon</a>	10 April 1919	12 April 1924	
25	<a href="#">Sir P. Rajagopalachari</a>	1920	1923	
26	<a href="#">Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Edward Nye<sup>[2]</sup></a>	6 May 1946	7 September 1948	1
27	<a href="#">Maharaja Sir Krishna Kumarasinhji Bhavsinhji</a>	7 September 1948	12 March 1952	1
28	<a href="#">Sri Prakasa</a>	12 March 1952	10 December 1956	1
29	<a href="#">A. J. John</a>	10 December 1956	30 September 1957	1
-	<a href="#">Pakala Venkata Rajamannar</a> ( <i>acting</i> )	1 October 1957	24 January 1958	1


30	<a href="#">Bhishnuram Medhi</a>	24 January 1958	4 May 1964	1
31	<a href="#">Maharaja Sir Jayachamaraja Wodeyar Bahadur</a>	4 May 1964	24 November 1964	1
-	<a href="#">P. Chandra Reddy</a> <i>(acting)</i> <sup>[a]</sup>	24 November 1964	7 December 1965	1
(31)	<a href="#">Maharaja Sir Jayachamaraja Wodeyar Bahadur</a> <sup>[nb 2]</sup>	7 December 1965	28 June 1966	1
32	<a href="#">Sardar Ujjal Singh</a> <i>(acting till 16 June 1967)</i>	28 June 1966	14 January 1969	1

## Graphical<sup>[edit]</sup>



## Tamil Nadu<sup>[edit]</sup>




Madras State was renamed as Tamil Nadu ([Tamil](#) for *Tamil country*) on 14 January 1969. Governors have similar powers and functions at the state level as that of the President of India at the Central government level. The Governor acts as the nominal head of the state while the [Chief Ministers of the states](#) and the Chief Minister's Council of Ministers are invested with most executive powers.

No.	Portrait	Name (Birth–Death)	Home state	Term of office <sup>[d]</sup>			Previous post	Appointed by
				Assumed office	Left office	Time in office		
1	NO IMAGE AVAILABLE	<a href="#"><u>Ujjal Singh</u></a> (1895–1983)	<a href="#"><u>Punjab</u></a>	14 January 1969	25 May 1971	2 years, 131 days	<a href="#"><u>Governor of Punjab</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Zakir Hussain</u></a>
2	NO IMAGE AVAILABLE	<a href="#"><u>K. K. Shah</u></a> (1908–1986)	<a href="#"><u>Gujarat</u></a>	26 May 1971	15 June 1976	5 years, 20 days	–	<a href="#"><u>Varahagiri Venkata Giri</u></a>
3		<a href="#"><u>Mohan Lal Sukhadia</u></a> (1916–1982)	<a href="#"><u>Rajasthan</u></a>	16 June 1976	8 April 1977	296 days	<a href="#"><u>Governor of United Andhra Pradesh</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed</u></a>
Acting	NO IMAGE AVAILABLE	<b>P. Govindan Nair</b> (Unknown–Unknown)	<a href="#"><u>Kerala</u></a>	9 April 1977	26 April 1977	17 days	–	<a href="#"><u>B. D. Jatti</u></a> ( <i>Acting President</i> )

No.	Portrait	Name (Birth–Death)	Home state	Term of office <sup>[d]</sup>			Previous post	Appointed by
				Assumed office	Left office	Time in office		
4	NO IMAGE AVAILABLE	<a href="#">Prabhudas B. Patwari</a> (1909–1985)	<a href="#">Gujarat</a>	27 April 1977	26 October 1980	3 years, 182 days	<a href="#">Indian Lawyer</a>	
Acting	NO IMAGE AVAILABLE	<a href="#">M. M. Ismail</a> (1921–2005)	<a href="#">Tamil Nadu</a>	27 October 1980	3 November 1980	37 days	<a href="#">Chief Justice of Madras High Court</a>	<a href="#">Neelam Sanjiva Reddy</a>
5	NO IMAGE AVAILABLE	<a href="#">Sadiq Ali</a> (1910–2001)	<a href="#">Rajasthan</a>	4 November 1980	2 September 1982	1 year, 302 days	<a href="#">Governor of Maharashtra</a>	
6	NO IMAGE AVAILABLE	<a href="#">S. L. Khurana</a> (1918–2007)	<a href="#">National Capital Territory of Delhi</a>	3 September 1982	16 February 1988	5 years, 166 days	<a href="#">Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry</a>	<a href="#">Giani Zail Singh</a>

No.	Portrait	Name (Birth–Death)	Home state	Term of office <sup>[4]</sup>			Previous post	Appointed by
				Assumed office	Left office	Time in office		
7	NO IMAGE AVAILABLE	<a href="#"><u>P. C. Alexander</u></a> (1921–2011)	<a href="#"><u>Kerala</u></a>	17 February 1988	23 May 1990	2 years, 95 days	<a href="#"><u>I.A.S. Officer</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>R. Venkataraman</u></a>
8		<a href="#"><u>Surjit Singh Barnala</u></a> (1925–2017)	<a href="#"><u>Haryana</u></a>	24 May 1990	14 February 1991	266 days	<a href="#"><u>Chief Minister of Punjab</u></a>	
9		<a href="#"><u>Bhisma Narain Singh</u></a> (1933–2018)	<a href="#"><u>Rajasthan</u></a>	15 February 1991	30 May 1993	2 years, 104 days	<a href="#"><u>Governor of Assam</u></a>	
10		<a href="#"><u>M. Channa Reddy</u></a> (1919–1996)	<a href="#"><u>Andhra Pradesh</u></a>	31 May 1993	2 December 1996 <sup>[4]</sup>	3 years, 185 days	<a href="#"><u>Governor of Rajasthan</u></a>	

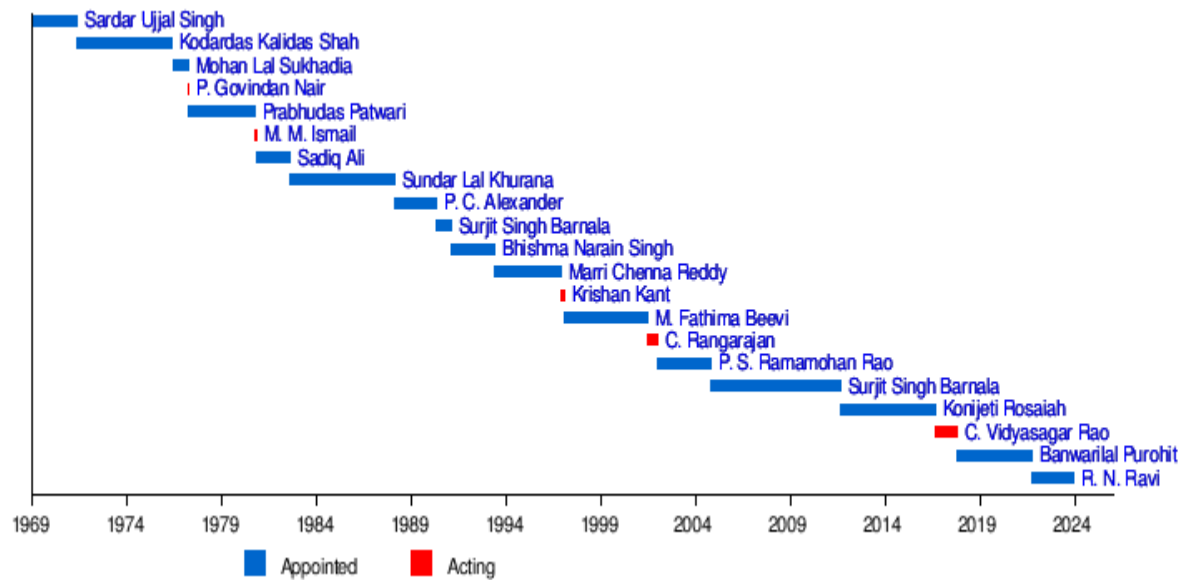


No.	Portrait	Name (Birth–Death)	Home state	Term of office <sup>[4]</sup>			Previous post	Appointed by
				Assumed office	Left office	Time in office		
–		<a href="#"><u>Krishan Kant</u></a> (1927–2002)	<a href="#"><u>Punjab</u></a>	2 December 1996	24 January 1997	53 days	<a href="#"><u>Governor of Andhra Pradesh</u></a>	
11		<a href="#"><u>M. Fathima Beevi</u></a> (1927–2023)	<a href="#"><u>Kerala</u></a>	25 January 1997	2 July 2001	4 years, 158 days	Judge of the <a href="#"><u>Supreme Court of India</u></a>	
–		<a href="#"><u>C. Rangarajan</u></a> (1932–)	<a href="#"><u>Tamil Nadu</u></a>	3 July 2001	17 January 2002	198 days	<a href="#"><u>Governor of the Reserve Bank of India</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>K. R. Narayanan</u></a>
12		<a href="#"><u>P. S. Ramamohan Rao</u></a> (1934–)	<a href="#"><u>Andhra Pradesh</u></a>	18 January 2002	2 November 2004	2 years, 289 days	<a href="#"><u>Director General of Andhra Pradesh Police</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>A. P. J. Abdul Kalam</u></a>

No.	Portrait	Name (Birth–Death)	Home state	Term of office <sup>[4]</sup>			Previous post	Appointed by
				Assumed office	Left office	Time in office		
(8)		<a href="#"><u>Surjit Singh Barnala</u></a> (1925–2017)	<a href="#"><u>Haryana</u></a>	3 November 2004	30 August 2011	6 years, 300 days	<a href="#"><u>Governor of Andhra Pradesh</u></a>	
13		<a href="#"><u>Konijeti Rosaiah</u></a> (1933–2021)	<a href="#"><u>Andhra Pradesh</u></a>	31 August 2011	1 September 2016	5 years, 1 day	<a href="#"><u>Chief minister of Andhra Pradesh</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pratibha Devisingh Patil</u></a>
–		<a href="#"><u>C. Vidyasagar Rao</u></a> (1942–)	<a href="#"><u>Andhra Pradesh</u></a>	2 September 2016	5 October 2017	1 year, 33 days	<a href="#"><u>Governor of Maharashtra</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pranab Mukherjee</u></a>

No.	Portrait	Name (Birth–Death)	Home state	Term of office <sup>[d]</sup>			Previous post	Appointed by
				Assumed office	Left office	Time in office		
14		<a href="#"><u>Banwarilal Purohit</u></a> (1939–)	<a href="#"><u>Rajasthan</u></a>	6 October 2017	17 September 2021	3 years, 346 days	<a href="#"><u>Governor of Assam</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ram Nath Kovind</u></a>
15		<a href="#"><u>R. N. Ravi</u></a> (1952–)	<a href="#"><u>Bihar</u></a>	18 September 2021	<i>Incumbent</i>	2 years, 73 days	<a href="#"><u>Governor of Nagaland</u></a>	

Graphical



## Records [\[edit\]](#)

- Surjit Singh Barnala is the only appointed Governor to have served two terms in office (24 May 1990–15 February 1991 and 3 November 2004–31 August 2011).
- The longest term in office was that of Surjit Singh Barnala who served as the Governor for a period of almost six and a half years (3 November 2004–31 August 2011).
- The shortest term in office was that of M. M. Ismail who served as the acting Governor for a period of nine days (27 October 1980–4 November 1980).
- The longest term in office as additional in-charge was that of C. Vidyasagar Rao for a period of 1 year 1 month and 4 days (2 September 2016– 6 October 2017).