

Chief minister

A **chief minister** is an [elected](#) or appointed [head of government](#) of – in most instances – a [sub-national entity](#), for instance an administrative subdivision or federal constituent entity. Examples include a state (and sometimes a [union territory](#)) in [India](#); a territory of [Australia](#);^[1] a province of [Sri Lanka](#) or [Pakistan](#); a [federal province](#) in [Nepal](#); an [autonomous region](#) of Philippines;^[2] or a [British Overseas Territory](#) that has attained self-governance. It is also used as the English version of the title given to the heads of [governments](#) of the [Malay states](#)^[3] without a [monarchy](#).

The title is also used in the [Crown Dependencies](#) of the [Isle of Man](#) (since 1986), in [Guernsey](#) (since 2004), and in [Jersey](#) (since 2005).

In 2018 [Sierra Leone](#), a [presidential republic](#), created the role of an appointed chief minister, which is similar to a [prime minister](#) in a [semi-presidential system](#).^[4] Before that, only [Milton Margai](#) had the same position between 1954 and 1958.^[5]

Meaning and role^[edit]

The title has a similar construction and role as a [first minister](#) or [minister-president](#) but usually with a lower rank. The role has context within the [Westminster system](#) of government where a constitutional [head of state](#) (usually sub-national) is [advised](#) by [ministers](#) who usually head executive government departments ([ministries](#)). A chief minister is understood to be "first among equals". They would be the chief adviser to the nominal head of their state, the [chair](#) of [cabinet](#) and leader of the main governing [political party](#) in the [legislature](#).^[6]

List of chief ministers of Tamil Nadu

The **Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** is the [chief executive](#) of the [Indian](#) state of [Tamil Nadu](#). In accordance with 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 [Tamil Nadu 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](#).^[2]

Since 1952, Tamil Nadu has had 12 chief ministers, 13 including [V. R. Nedunchezhiyan](#), who twice acted in the role. The longest-serving chief minister, [M. Karunanidhi](#) from [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam](#) held the office for over eighteen years in multiple tenures, while he was the one who had the largest gap between two terms (nearly thirteen years). The [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam](#)'s former [general secretary J. Jayalalithaa](#) has the second-longest tenure, and its founder [M. G. Ramachandran](#), the first actor to become the chief minister in [India](#) has the third-

longest tenure, while his wife [V. N. Janaki Ramachandran](#) has the shortest tenure (only 23 days). [K. Kamaraj](#) resigned his post of his own free will and devoted all of his energy to the revitalization of the [Indian National Congress](#) party; he was responsible for the elevation of [Lal Bahadur Shastri](#) to the position of [Prime Minister of the Republic of India](#) following the death of [Jawaharlal Nehru](#) and of [Indira Gandhi](#) following the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri. [C. Rajagopalachari](#) served as the last [Governor-General of the Union of India](#) before becoming chief minister of undivided Madras State. There have been four instances of [president's rule](#) in Tamil Nadu, most recently in 1991.^{[3][4]}

The [current incumbent](#) is [M. K. Stalin](#) of the [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam](#) since 7 May 2021.

List of chief ministers[\[edit\]](#)

The [Madras Presidency](#), headquartered in [Fort St. George, India](#), was a [presidency of India](#) that 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](#).

The territory under the presidency comprised only Madrasapattinam and its surrounding regions. But, after the Anglo-French wars and the consequent alliance between the [English East India Company](#) and the [Nawab of Arcot](#), it was expanded to comprise the region from the [Northern Circars](#) to [Cape Comorin](#). The governance structure also evolved from a modest secretariat with a single secretary for the Public Department in 1670 to six departments overseen by a chief secretary by 1920.

The [Indian Councils Act 1861](#) set up the Madras Legislative Council as an advisory body, without powers, through which the colonial administration obtained advice and assistance from able and willing Indian business leaders. But membership was selected (not elected) and was not representative of the masses.

With the enactment of the [Government of India Act 1919](#), the first legislature was formed in 1920 after [general elections](#).^[5] The term of the [legislative council](#) was three years. It had 132 members, of whom 34 were nominated by the governor and the rest were elected. Under the [Government of India Act 1935](#), a [bicameral](#) legislature was set up with a legislative assembly consisting of 215 members and a legislative council having 56 members. The first legislative assembly under this act was constituted in July 1937. The legislative council was a permanent body, with a third of its members retiring every 3 years and having the power to decide on bills passed by the assembly.^[6]

In 1939, the [Governor-General of India](#) declared India's entry into [World War II](#) without consulting the [Imperial Legislative Council](#). The [Indian National Congress](#) protested by asking all its elected representatives to resign from governments.^[7] Then it came back to power in 1946 after new provincial elections.^[8]



The state of Tamil Nadu in India has an electorate of more than 70 million people (7 [crore](#)).^[9]



Madras Presidency in 1909, showing in the southern portion of India.

1	NO IMAGE AVAILABLE	<u>A. Subbarayalu Reddiar</u> (1855–1921)	Leader of the <u>Presidency Legislative Council</u>	17 December 1920	11 July 1921 ^[RES]	206 days	1st (1920)	Reddiar	<u>Frederic Thesiger</u>	<u>South Indian Liberal Federation</u>
2		<u>Panaganti Ramarayanan</u> (1866–1928)	Leader of the <u>Presidency Legislative Council</u>	11 July 1921	11 September 1923	5 years, 145 days		2nd (1923)	Ramarayanan I	
				12 September 1923	3 December 1926		Ramarayanan II			
3		<u>P. Subbarayan</u> (1889–1962)	Leader of the <u>Presidency Legislative Council</u>	4 December 1926	27 October 1930	3 years, 327 days	3rd (1926)	Subbarayan	<u>Edward Wood</u>	<u>Independent</u>

4		<u>B. Munuswamy Naidu</u> (1885–1935)	Leader of the Presidency Legislative Council	27 October 1930	4 November 1932 ^{RESI}	2 years, 8 days	4th (1930)	Naidu	Freeman Freeman-Thomas	South Indian Liberal Federation
5		<u>Ramakrishna Ranga Rao</u> (1901–1978)	Leader of the Presidency Legislative Council	5 November 1932	5 November 1934	3 years, 151 days		Rao I		
				5 November 1934	4 April 1936 ^{RESI}		Rao II			
6		<u>P. T. Rajan</u> (1892–1974)	Leader of the Presidency Legislative Council	4 April 1936	24 August 1936 ^{RESI}	142 days	5th (1934)	Rajan		

(5)		<u>Ramakrishna Ranga Rao</u> (1901–1978)	Leader of the <u>Presidency Legislative Council</u>	24 August 1936 ^[SI]	1 April 1937	220 days		Rao III		
7		<u>Kurma Venkata Reddy Naidu</u> (1875–1942)	Leader of the <u>Presidency Legislative Council</u>	1 April 1937	14 July 1937 ^[RES]	104 days	1st (1937)	Naidu	<u>Victor Hope</u>	<u>Independent</u>
8		<u>C. Rajagopalachari</u> (1878–1972)	Leader of the <u>Presidency Legislative Council</u>	14 July 1937	29 October 1939 ^[RES]	2 years, 107 days		<u>Rajagopalachari</u> !		<u>Indian National Congress</u>
–		<i>Vacant</i> (<u>Governor-General's rule</u>)	<u>N/A</u>	29 October 1939	29 April 1946	6 years, 182 days	<i>Dissolved</i>	<u>N/A</u>	–	<u>N/A</u>

9		<u>T. Prakasam</u> (1872–1957)	Leader of the <u>Presidency Legislative Council</u>	30 April 1946	23 March 1947 ^(RES)	327 days		Prakasam	<u>Archibald Wavell</u>	
10		<u>O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar</u> (1895–1970)	Leader of the <u>Presidency Legislative Council</u>	23 March 1947	6 April 1949 ^(RES)	2 years, 14 days	2nd (1946)	<u>Reddiar</u>	<u>Archibald Nye</u>	<u>Indian National Congress</u>
11		<u>P. S. Kumaraswamy Raja</u> (1898–1957)	Leader of the <u>Presidency Legislative Council</u>	6 April 1949	25 January 1950	294 days		Raja	<u>Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji</u>	

Timeline

1		<u>P. S. Kumaraswamy Raja</u> (1898–1957)	Leader of the <u>State Legislative Council</u>	26 January 1950	9 April 1952	2 years, 74 days	2nd (<u>1946</u>)	Raja	<u>Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji</u>	
2		<u>C. Rajagopalachari</u> (1878–1972)	Leader of the <u>State Legislative Council</u>	10 April 1952	13 April 1954 ^{<u>IRESI</u>}	2 years, 3 days	1st (<u>1952</u>)	<u>Rajagopalachari II</u>	<u>Sri Prakasa</u>	<u>Indian National Congress</u>
3		<u>K. Kamaraj</u> (1903–1975)	<u>Gudiyatham</u>	13 April 1954	12 April 1957	9 years, 172 days		<u>Kamaraj I</u>		
			<u>Sattur</u>	13 April 1957	14 March 1962		2nd (<u>1957</u>)	<u>Kamaraj II</u>	<u>A. J. John</u>	
				15 March 1962	2 October 1963 ^{<u>IRESI</u>}		3rd (<u>1962</u>)	<u>Kamaraj III</u>	<u>Bishnu Ram Medhi</u>	

4		<u>M. Bhakthavatsalam</u> (1897–1987)	<u>Sriperumbudur</u>	2 October 1963	5 March 1967	3 years, 154 days		Bhakthavatsalam		
5		<u>C. N. Annadurai</u> (1909–1969)	Leader of the <u>State Legislative Council</u>	6 March 1967	13 January 1969	1 year, 313 days	<u>4th</u> (<u>1967</u>)	<u>Annadurai</u>	<u>Ujjal Singh</u>	<u>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>

Change in nomenclature

During the term of the [fourth assembly](#) on 18 July 1967, the house unanimously adopted and recommended that steps be taken by the state government to secure the necessary amendment to the [Constitution of India](#) to change the name of Madras State to [Tamil Nadu](#). Accordingly, the Madras State (Alteration of Name) Act, 1968 (Central Act 53 of 1968) was passed by the [Parliament of India](#) and came into force on 14 January 1969.^[14] Consequently, the nomenclature "Madras Legislative Assembly" was changed to "[Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly](#)". From 1967 onward, the strength of the assembly continued to remain at 234 plus a nominated member.

From 1952 to 1986, the state had a parliamentary system of government with two democratically elected houses, the [Legislative Assembly](#) and the [Legislative Council](#). On 14 May 1986, the state government passed a resolution to abolish the legislative council in the state, which was then moved and adopted by the house. On 1 November 1986, Tamil Nadu became a state with a unicameral legislature, and since then, several times, the state government has taken steps to reconstitute the legislative council, but they have failed for so long. The [Tamil Nadu Legislative Council](#) has not been constituted in the state till date.

Legend

- Acting chief minister



Key

- RES Resigned

Color key for political parties



-  [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam](#)
-  [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam](#)

- † Died in office
- ‡ Returned to office after a previous non-consecutive term

Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu										
No.	Portrait	Name (Birth–Death)	Elected constituency	Term of office ^[10]			Assembly (Election)	Ministry	Appointed by	Political party ^[a]
				Assumed office	Left office	Time in office				
1		C. N. Annadurai (1909–1969)	Leader of the State Legislative Council	14 January 1969	3 February 1969 ^[†]	20 days	4th (1967)	Annadurai	Ujjal Singh	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
Acting		V. R. Nedunchezhiyan (1920–2000)	Triplicane	3 February 1969	10 February 1969 ^[RES]	7 days		Nedunchezhiyan I		
2		M. Karunanidhi (1924–2018)	Saidapet	10 February 1969	14 March 1971	6 years, 355 days		Karunanidhi I		

				15 March 1971	31 January 1976		5th (1971)	Karunanidhi II		
-	 सत्यमेव जयते	<i>Vacant</i> <u>(President's rule)</u>	N/A	31 January 1976	29 June 1977	1 year, 149 days	<i>Dissolved</i>	N/A	-	N/A
3		<u>M. G. Ramachandran</u> (1917–1987)	Aruppukottai	30 June 1977	17 February 1980	2 years, 232 days	6th (1977)	Ramachandran I	Prabhudas B. Patwari	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
-	 सत्यमेव जयते	<i>Vacant</i> <u>(President's rule)</u>	N/A	17 February 1980	8 June 1980	112 days	<i>Dissolved</i>	N/A	-	N/A

(3)		<u>M. G. Ramachandran</u> (1917–1987)	<u>Madurai West</u>	9 June 1980 ^[SI]	9 February 1985	7 years, 198 days	7th (1980)	<u>Ramachandran II</u>	<u>Prabhudas B. Patwari</u>	
			<u>Andipatti</u>	10 February 1985	24 December 1987 ^[SI]			<u>Ramachandran III</u>		
Acting		<u>V. R. Nedunchezhiyan</u> (1920–2000)	<u>Athoor</u>	24 December 1987	7 January 1988 ^[RES]	14 days	8th (1984)	<u>Nedunchezhiyan II</u>	<u>S. L. Khurana</u>	<u>All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>
4		<u>V. N. Janaki Ramachandran</u> (1923–1996)	<i>did not contest</i>	7 January 1988	30 January 1988	23 days		Janaki		
–	 सत्यमेव जयते	Vacant (<u>President's rule</u>)	<u>N/A</u>	30 January 1988	26 January 1989	362 days	<i>Dissolved</i>	<u>N/A</u>	–	<u>N/A</u>

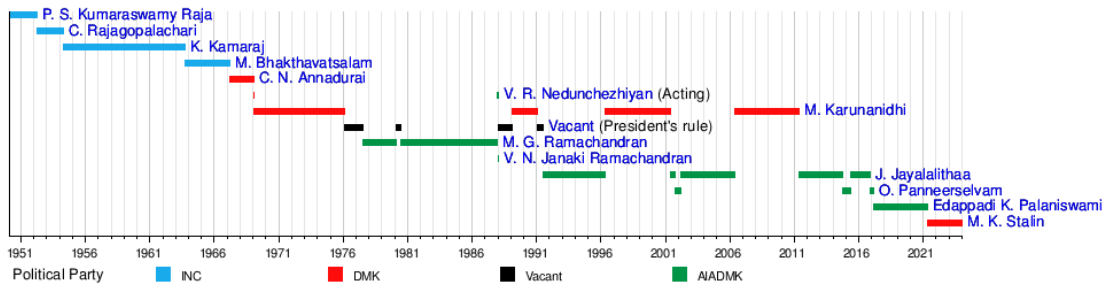
(2)		<u>M. Karunanidhi</u> (1924–2018)	<u>Harbour</u>	27 January 1989 ^[S]	30 January 1991	2 years, 3 days	9th (<u>1989</u>)	<u>Karunanidhi III</u>	<u>P. C. Alexander</u>	<u>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>
–	 सत्यमेव जयते	<i>Vacant</i> (<u>President's rule</u>)	<u>N/A</u>	30 January 1991	23 June 1991	144 days	<i>Dissolved</i>	<u>N/A</u>	–	<u>N/A</u>
5		<u>J. Jayalalithaa</u> (1948–2016)	<u>Bargur</u>	24 June 1991	12 May 1996	4 years, 323 days	10th (<u>1991</u>)	<u>Jayalalithaa I</u>	<u>Bhishma Narain Singh</u>	<u>All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>
(2)		<u>M. Karunanidhi</u> (1924–2018)	<u>Chepauk</u>	13 May 1996 ^[S]	13 May 2001	5 years	11th (<u>1996</u>)	<u>Karunanidhi IV</u>	<u>Marri Chenna Reddy</u>	<u>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>

(5)		<u>J. Jayalalithaa</u> (1948–2016)	<i>did not contest</i>	14 May 2001 ^[SI]	21 September 2001 ^[RES]	130 days		<u>Jayalalithaa II</u>	<u>Fathima Beevi</u>	
6		<u>O. Panneerselvam</u> (1951–)	<u>Periyakulam</u>	21 September 2001	2 March 2002 ^[RES]	162 days	<u>12th</u> (2001)	<u>Panneerselvam I</u>	<u>C. Rangarajan</u>	<u>All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>
(5)		<u>J. Jayalalithaa</u> (1948–2016)	<u>Andipatti</u>	2 March 2002 ^[SI]	12 May 2006	4 years, 71 days		<u>Jayalalithaa III</u>	<u>P. S. Ramamohan Rao</u>	
(2)		<u>M. Karunanidhi</u> (1924–2018)	<u>Chepauk</u>	13 May 2006 ^[SI]	15 May 2011	5 years, 2 days	<u>13th</u> (2006)	<u>Karunanidhi V</u>	<u>Surjit Singh Barnala</u>	<u>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>

(5)		<u>J. Jayalithaa</u> (1948–2016)	<u>Srirangam</u>	16 May 2011 ^[S]	27 September 2014	3 years, 134 days	<u>14th</u> (2011)	<u>Jayalithaa IV</u>	<u>Konijeti Rosaiah</u>	<u>All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>
(6)		<u>O. Panneerselvam</u> (1951–)	<u>Bodinayakanur</u>	28 September 2014 ^[S]	23 May 2015 ^[RES]	237 days		<u>Jayalithaa V</u>		
(5)		<u>J. Jayalithaa</u> (1948–2016)	<u>Dr. Radhakrishnan Nagar</u>	23 May 2015 ^[S]	22 May 2016	1 year, 196 days	<u>Jayalithaa VI</u>			
				23 May 2016	5 December 2016 ^[H]					
(6)		<u>O. Panneerselvam</u> (1951–)	<u>Bodinayakanur</u>	6 December 2016 ^[S]	15 February 2017 ^[RES]	72 days	<u>15th</u> (2016)	<u>Panneerselvam III</u>	<u>C. Vidyasagar Rao</u>	

7		<u>Edappadi K. Palaniswami</u> (1954–)	<u>Edappadi</u>	16 February 2017	6 May 2021	4 years, 79 days		<u>Palaniswami</u>		
8		<u>M. K. Stalin</u> (1953–)	<u>Kolathur</u>	7 May 2021	<i>Incumbent</i>	2 years, 227 days	<u>16th</u> (<u>2021</u>)	<u>Stalin</u>	<u>Banwarilal Purohit</u>	<u>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>

Timeline



Statistics [\[edit\]](#)

List of chief ministers by length of term

No.	Name	Party	Length of term	
			Longest continuous term	Total years of chief ministership
1	M. Karunanidhi	DMK	6 years, 355 days	18 years, 360 days
2	J. Jayalalithaa	AIADMK	4 years, 323 days	14 years, 124 days
3	M. G. Ramachandran	AIADMK	7 years, 198 days	10 years, 65 days
4	K. Kamaraj	INC	9 years, 172 days	9 years, 172 days
5	Edappadi K. Palaniswami	AIADMK	4 years, 79 days	4 years, 79 days
6	M. Bhakthavatsalam	INC	3 years, 154 days	3 years, 154 days
7	M. K. Stalin	DMK	2 years, 227 days	2 years, 227 days
8	P. S. Kumaraswamy Raja	INC	2 years, 74 days	2 years, 74 days

No.	Name	Party	Length of term	
			Longest continuous term	Total years of chief ministership
9	C. Rajagopalachari	INC	2 years, 3 days	2 years, 3 days
10	C. N. Annadurai	DMK	1 year, 334 days	1 year, 334 days
11	O. Panneerselvam	AIADMK	237 days	1 year, 106 days
12	V. N. Janaki Ramachandran	AIADMK	23 days	23 days
Acting	V. R. Nedunchezhiyan	AIADMK/DMK	14 days	21 days

List by party

Political parties by total time-span of their member holding CMO (20 December 2023)			
No.	Political party	Number of chief ministers	Total days of holding CMO
1	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	5 (+1 acting)	11004 days

Political parties by total time-span of their member holding [CMO](#) (20 December 2023)

No.	Political party	Number of chief ministers	Total days of holding CMO
2	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	3 (+1 acting)	8597 days
3	Indian National Congress	4	6247 days

Parties by total duration (in days) of holding Chief Minister's Office

2,500
5,000
7,500
10,000
12,500
15,000

AIADMK

DMK

INC

- [AIADMK](#)
- [DMK](#)
- [INC](#)

Lifespan of each chief minister of Tamil Nadu

