

# PINARAYI VIJAYAN

Pinarayi Vijayan was born on 21st March 1944 in Pinarayi in Kannur district. Pinarayi Vijayan entered politics through student union activities and eventually joined the Communist Party in 1964. He was the President and Secretary of the Kerala Student's Federation (KSF) and also served as the President of Kerala State Youth Federation (KSYF). During that period, when communists in Kerala were organising political activities from different hide-outs, Pinarayi Vijayan was imprisoned for one and half years. He was subjected to police brutalities during emergency. Later he was elected the President of the Kerala State co-operative Bank. 1970 witnessed his entry in to the Kerala Legislative Assembly. He was re-elected in 1977, 1991 and 1996. He was the Minister for Electricity and Co-operatives in the E.K. Nayanar ministry from 1996 to 1998. In 1998 he became the Party State Secretary. He was elected to the Polit Bureau of CPI (M) in 2002.

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Kerala state was going through a rough period with three and half hours of load shedding for domestic consumers and 95 per cent power cut for industries. The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) was also crippled with financial crisis. In such a scenario, Pinarayi Vijayan became the electricity minister and by the time his term ended, the power generation in the state had increased by 1083.6 MW as against the previous UDF government's achievement of a paltry 14 MW. The load shedding and power cut were totally withdrawn and Kerala could claim to be self-sufficient in power.