

STATSGURU

A garden, some bungalows and a big fat wedding

Sasikala's rise and fall were intricately linked to the assets she acquired during her late friend's first tenure as chief minister



THE SUPREME COURT on Tuesday dashed V K Sasikala's hopes of becoming chief minister of Tamil Nadu by setting aside a high court judgment that had in May 2015 acquitted her, her relatives V N Sudhakaran, J Elavarasi and the late J Jayalalithaa (pictured right).

The Bench of Pinaki Chandra Ghose and Amitava Roy said though references had been made to Jayalalithaa's role and the nexus between her and the other accused, "she having expired meanwhile, the appeals, so far as those relate to her stand abated."

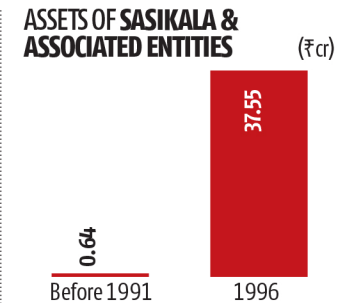
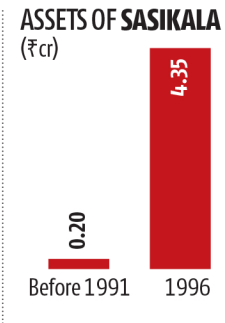
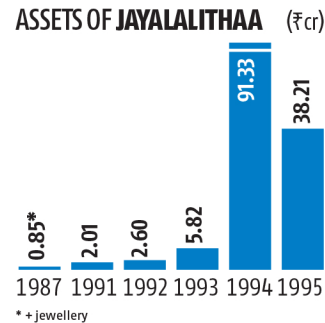
But, the court trashed the high court's calculations that led to the acquittal. "We have considered the facts of this case and in our opinion, the percentage of disproportionate assets as 8.12 per cent as computed by the High Court is based on completely wrong reading of the evidence on record compounded by incorrect arithmetical calculations," the court observed.

It added the evidence on record proved the disproportionateness so unassailably that "it is inessential as well to resort to any arithmetic to compute the percentage thereof." The court relied on submissions of Karnataka special prosecutor BV Acharya on the errors in calculations of the high court.

Let us look at some key numbers, meticulously documented by investigators that portray the greed of a chief minister and her associates, which sent them after money, land, gold and other forms of ostentations. And, who can forget that big fat wedding of Sudhakaran, Sasikala's nephew, briefly adopted as son by Jayalalithaa? The Supreme Court saw through all these. It said the co-living arrangement in Poes Garden was a conspiracy to hold ill-gotten assets; nothing social about it.

N SUNDARESHA SUBRAMANIAN

1. HOW ASSETS OF JAYALALITHAA, SASIKALA GREW



2. THE HOLDINGS WERE SPREAD ACROSS VARIOUS ASSET CLASSES AND FORMS OF OWNERSHIP

50 Number of bank accounts opened

32 Number of companies floated

146 Number of title deeds of properties

₹7.24 cr Amount spent on construction in Poes Garden

₹6.4 cr Construction of farm house near Hyderabad

₹5.4 cr Siruthavur bungalow

₹7.6 cr Price paid for 900-acre Kodanad tea estate

3000 acres Total agricultural land acquired

₹20 crore Total Value of land acquired

3. THE EXPENSES ON THE WEDDING OF SUDHAKARAN



Expenditure incurred for erection of marriage pandal ₹5.21 cr



Cost of food, mineral water, return gifts ₹1.15 cr



100 silver plates ₹4 lakh



Postal expenses for 56,000 invitations ₹2.24 lakh



34 Titan watches ₹1.34 lakh

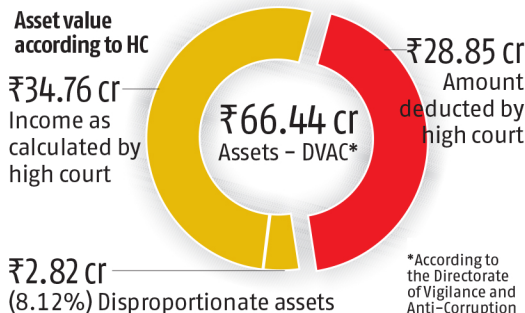


Wedding dress ₹1.26 lakh



TOTAL ₹6.45 cr

5. THE HIGH COURT USED A VERY DIFFERENT CALCULATION METRIC



6. ERRORS POINTED OUT BY BV ACHARYA, SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TO THE SUPREME COURT

Calculation error	Even if all findings of HC accepted then assets would be	₹14.38 cr
Arithmetic error	In calculation of loan as income	₹13.5 cr
Admission of accused was higher than HC finding	1) Valuation of construction	₹3.5 cr
	2) Business income of Jaya Publication	₹2.84 cr
Gifts as income		₹1.5 cr
Disproportionate assets after curing errors		₹35.73 cr
Percentage of disproportionate assets		211%

4. HOW TRIAL COURT CALCULATED THE DISPROPORTIONATE ASSETS

