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DMK spokesperson T.K.S. Elangovan said Saturday's conviction proved that his party had not acted out of political vendetta.

As soon as the court verdict became known, furious AIADMK cadres stoned buses and forced shopkeepers to down shutters in all prominent towns and cities in Tamil Nadu.

Tension prevailed in Chennai where bus services were halted.

The question being debated animately in Tamil Nadu is who will now succeed Jayalalithaa as chief minister.

A close aide of AIADMK founder-leader MGR, Jayalalithaa became the party's propaganda secretary in the early 1980s. In 1984, she entered the Rajya Sabha.

Jayalalithaa was elected to the Tamil Nadu assembly for the first time in 1989.

Two years later, she became the chief minister, sweeping the election held after the 1991 assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Her party was voted out in 1996 amid corruption charges but she returned to power in 2001.

Jayalalithaa again led the AIADMK to a thumping victory in 2011. This time, she announced a string of populist measures that have proved to be hugely popular in Tamil Nadu.

Jayalalithaa studied in Bangalore and Chennai, and ventured into acting. She made her debut at the age of 16 in a Kannada movie, and went on to act in over 140 films.

Timeline:

1996 - The DMK government registers a first information report (FIR) against Jayalalithaa for having disproportionate assets known to her source of income.

1997 - The court frames charges against four: Jayalalithaa, V.N. Sudhakaran, V.K. Sasikala and J. Illaarasu.

2002 - Jayalalithaa becomes chief minister again. Several witnesses turned hostile.

2003 - DMK leader K. Anbazhagan urges the Supreme Court to shift the case out of Chennai. The apex court orders shifting of the case to Bangalore where a special

court was set up.

2010 - Trial in the disproportionate assets case begins in a serious manner.

2011 - AIADMK back in power and Jayalalithaa becomes chief minister of Tamil Nadu.

Jayalalithaa appears before the trial court and answers over 1,300 questions.

2012 - Supreme Court clears the appointment of G. Bhavani Singh as the special public prosecutor.

John Michael Cunha appointed as the special court judge.

2014 - Conclusion of trial and judgment day was initially fixed for Sep 20. The date was postponed to Sep 27 at Jayalalithaa's request citing security reasons.

2014 - Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa held guilty of amassing assets disproportionate to known sources of her income during 1991-96.

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