

Sanjay gives youth a five-point programme

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Mr Sanjay Gandhi today gave a five-point plan of action to the Youth Congress: refuse dowry, practise family planning restricting children to two, plant trees, start a literacy drive and a drive to send intellectuals to villages.

The Youth Congress must take up these "vital" programmes and set a model for the country's elders, he said addressing a state-level convention of the Youth Congress here.

Mr Gandhi said that youth power would sweep the country. He cited the example of the Chief Minister-designate of Uttar Pradesh, Mr Narain Dutt Tiwari.

Mr Gandhi deplored the controversy over leftism and rightism and asked the youth to follow the middle path laid down by Mahatma Gandhi who had vowed to help the poorest of the poor and weakest of the weak.

"If the leftists deviate from this path and harm the poor, we will reject them and if the rightists do the same, we will reject them too," he said.

In a 25-minute address, Mr Gandhi said it was because of the middle path pursued by the Congress that no other political party had been able to make even a dent in this monolith since it was the only party that stood for the poor and weak.

The Chief Minister, Mr Devaraj Urs, who earlier welcomed Mr Gandhi, hinted that in any future cabinet expansion he would increase the number of youths.

Mr Gandhi was given a rousing reception at Bangalore airport on his arrival from Delhi today.

Mr Gandhi called on "big powers" to leave India alone to follow its chosen path of democracy, socialism and secularism to attain all round advancement in the field of industry, economy, science and technology, PTI adds.

Mr Gandhi said India had found the path to progress and would like to march on it without any foreign interference. "We want to advance in our own way that should combine the modern technology and our ancient cultural and social heritage".

The proclamation of emergency, he said, could in no way be described as "the death of democracy". The bogey raised by foreign newspapers and mass media organisations was a total lie as the foreign powers did not want India to emerge as a strong nation.