

Swami Agnivesh holds PM Narendra Modi guilty of attacks on him

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JAIPUR: Noted social activist Swami Agnivesh has accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sanctioning attacks on him through BJP party workers at Pakkur in Jharkhand on July 17 and in Delhi while he was on his way to pay last respects to former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on August 17.

While delivering his keynote address at a conference organised by Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) in Jaipur on Monday, he said, "I interpret the silence of PM Modi on both the incidents as an act approved by him." The spiritual leader announced a nationwide campaign against PM Modi until he tenders an apology for the attacks.

"Isn't it unfortunate that Modi who is so vocal on all social media platforms has failed to acknowledge both the attacks orchestrated on me. Those responsible behind both the attacks were identified as BJP party workers. Despite that BJP which boasts as a party with a difference has not taken any action against them," said Agnivesh.

Calling the second attack against the tenets of Sanatan Hindu Dharma, he said "Modi's silence on first attack has encouraged his party workers to a level that they not only disregard the legacy of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee but also

disrespected Hindu Sanatan Sanskriti while attacking and abusing somebody who is sharing the grief with them,” said Agnivesh, who was provided additional security.

He announced a nationwide campaign against Modi until he apologizes, disapproves and punishes the guilty. Disclosing his national plan to raise the issue, he said, “I will speak on the issue at Amnesty International meet in Delhi on Tuesday followed by programs in Bhubaneswar (August 30), Chennai (August 30) and Hyderabad (August 31),” said Agnivesh.

Agnivesh hinted to play a bigger role in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in the interest of the nation. “I am working on a ‘Common Minimum Program’ and will reach out to all secular political parties helping them to come on a common platform to contest against the BJP. A strong opposition can give a strong option to the nation at a time when BJP is not in a position to face the voters,” said Agnivesh, who also met the family members of Rakhbar Khan, Umar Khan and Pehlu Khan who were lynched in Rajasthan. He also handed over a cheque of Rs 21,000 to the family members of the deceased.