Grand alliance ray of hope to end BJP rule: Agnivesh

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VARANASI: Social activist Swami Agnivesh described on Thursday the recent attacks on him as a "statesponsored act of mob lynching" and termed the "mahagathbandhan"

(grand alliance) of political parties as a ray of hope towards ending "BJP-RSS" rule in the country in 2019 polls.

He also said he might consider contesting the elections if invited by the alliance and dared PM Narendra Modi and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat to join him in an open "shashtrartha" (debate) in Varanasi.

Agnivesh was in the city on Thursday to attend a programme related to victims of torture. The event was organised by Peoples Vigilance Committee of Human Rights (PVCHR) in association with other organisations. "Yadi Sangh pramukh ya Modi swayam yahan aa kar bahas karne ke liye taiyyar hon, toh main shashtrartha ki parampara ke anusar Kashi ke is vidwat nagari mein hazaron logon ke beech puri pardarshita ke saath bahas karne ke liye taiyar hun (I am ready for an open and transparent dialogue in the presence of thousands of people in Varanasi if the RSS chief and Modi come here for this)," Agnivesh told reporters.

In answer to a query regarding his role in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, he said efforts were being made to keep the issue of social

justice at the front. "All the parties are trying to forge a mahagathbandhan (grand alliance), which is a ray of hope to nail the BJP," he said, adding that it would give the people an alternative. He said the RSS chief invited people to take part in an event at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi but no important person attended his programme.