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## PM's 'sop opera' for poll-bound Bihar

**Modi doles out sops  
worth Rs 294.53 cr  
for state**

ABHAY KUMAR  
PATNA, DHNS

**A** head of Bihar Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday doled out sops worth Rs 294.53 crore for the poll-bound state.

The schemes were related to fisheries, animal husbandry and agriculture, and part of the Rs 20,050-crore Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna (PMMSY), aimed at focused and sustainable development of fisheries.

"The PMMSY will transform the fisheries sector and help India become an Aatmanirbhar Bharat," said Modi while interacting with farmers of Purnia, Begusarai and Madhepura through video conferencing.

He also launched the mobile app e-Gopala which will provide farmers the marketplace for livestock and a semen station with state-of-the-art facilities in Purnia.

The PMMSY is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of Rs 20,050 crore for its implementation between 2020-

25, as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package. The PM also announced a fish brood bank and an aquatic disease referral laboratory in Bihar.

### Ex-minister quits RJD

Meanwhile, in a major setback to the RJD, former Union minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh on Thursday quit the party.

"I have been working with you for the last 32 years after the demise of Karpoori Thakur. But I can't be associated with you any more. Please excuse me," Raghuvansh said in a letter to Lalu Pasad.

Having Masters in Maths, Raghuvansh was Union Rural Development Minister in UPA-I and became one of the favourite ministers of Manmohan Singh after implementing the UPA flagship scheme MNREGA in 2004-09.

However, his relationship with Lalu soured when Tejashwi Yadav tried to induct his bete noire Rama Singh (who had defeated Raghuvansh in Vaishali during 2014 LS poll) into the RJD.

To rub salt to his wounds, Lalu's elder son Tej Pratap last month commented "it won't make any difference if 'ek lota pani' (a mug of water) is taken out from the sea", in an oblique reference to Raghuvansh's plan to quit RJD.

Raghuvansh is presently admitted in AIIMS, New Delhi, after he was found to be Covid-19 positive.