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MESSAGE

Today is National Voters' Day and on this occasion, we are reminded of the fact that we are living in one of the most vibrant and free democracies in the world. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate all citizens, especially the newly enrolled voters, on the historic occasion of the 7th National Voters' Day on 25th January, 2017. The electoral process in India is truly unique and this has been achieved only because of the enormous participation of people throughout this country from all walks of life.

On this day I call upon every single person of these Islands, who has attained the age of 18 as on 1st January 2017, to come forward and enrol themselves as voters. I request them to ensure that they receive the Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) and most importantly, I also call upon them to exercise their right to vote at the appropriate time. Through consistent efforts, we have achieved an electoral roll of 2.78 lakhs voters in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands following the recently concluded Roll Revision exercise.

The theme of this year's National Voters' Day is "Empowering young & future voters". I am confident that the people of these Islands will heed this call and ensure that this theme is realized in this Union Territory, thus helping to ensure that India continues to be a strong, vibrant and inclusive democracy. The NVD Pledge that we all would be taking today is a reaffirmation of our faith in ourselves, our country and our democracy. I once again convey my best wishes to every Indian citizen on this happy occasion of National Voters' Day and appeal everyone to make it a great success by becoming an integral part of the democratic electoral process.

Sd/-
(Prof. Jagdish Mukhi)
Lieutenant Governor
Andaman and Nicobar Islands



National Girl Child Day celebrated befittingly in Isles

First Lady exhorts citizens for creating conducive atmosphere for girls to flourish

Port Blair, Jan 24
Along with the rest of the country, National 'Girl Child Day' was celebrated in these Islands too, today. The Day is observed to highlight the crucial issues pertaining to girl child/ women and to compact the decline in Child Sex Ratio (CSR), and all forms of violence against girls. The Day also aims at showcasing the opportunities created for the socio-economic empowerment of women. To mark the day, the Directorate of Social Welfare, A&N Administration organised a function at the ITF Ground here this evening. The First Lady of the Islands, Smt. Prem Mukhi was the chief guest on the occasion. Smti. Rupa Ray, Shri Jaydeep Kumar Dey, Adhayaksh, ZPSA, Dr. Poonam Arora, Chairperson SSWB, Padma Shree Awardee Shri Naresh Chandra Lal and Swamy Shuddhananda Saraswati of Chinmaya Mission Port Blair were among others who attended this programme. Addressing the gathering, the First Lady, while expressing happiness for being a part of the National



Girl Child day celebration, lauded the Social Welfare Department for organizing such a befitting programme today. The day, she said aims at creating awareness among the people about the need to provide conducive atmosphere for girls so that they can grow and flourish in life. Without giving the rightful place to its daughters, no society can progress, the First Lady said, calling upon one and all to encourage girls to become brave and self confident as they are second to none.

Reminding the people the call of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, 'Beti Bachao Beti Pado', the First Lady also acknowledged that the people of the country have embraced the slogan in true spirit. She also highlighted the need for providing proper education, legal and medical assistance to girls so that they can establish themselves in life. She also encouraged the girls to work hard and excel in life. The First Lady also

congratulated all the stakeholders of today's programme for presenting such meaningful programmes. Earlier, the First Lady also lit the traditional oil lamp marking the inauguration of today's function. She also went round the stalls and interacted with the women SHG members on the occasion. Earlier, welcoming the gathering, the Secretary

Social Welfare, Smti. Rashmi Singh informed as how the First Lady A&N Islands, Smti. Prem Mukhi has been involved in women empowerment activities since a long time. She also urged the women folk to support each other throughout for women empowerment. The Chairperson SSWB, Dr. Poonam Arora, while speaking, urged the ladies to approach the SSWB to

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'National Voters' Day' to be celebrated today

Port Blair, Jan 24
The Election Commission of India has decided to celebrate 25th January every year as 'National Voters' Day' throughout the country. This day will also be celebrated in these Islands with great

enthusiasm. Accordingly, to celebrate the 7th 'National Voters' Day', a state level function will be organised in the auditorium of JNRM at 10.30 am tomorrow (Jan 25). The Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, Prof. Jagdish

Mukhi will be the chief guest while the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar will be the guest of honour on the occasion, an official communication said here today.

Issues raised by Member of Parliament discussed Chief Secretary directs for timely completion of priority works

Port Blair, Jan 24
A meeting was conveyed recently under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, A & N Administration in the conference hall of Secretariat on various issues taken up by Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Member of Parliament, A & N Islands with the Lt Governor, Chief Secretary, Secretary and Head of Departments. During the

meeting, the issues raised by Member of Parliament were discussed and decisions were taken. The decisions taken include extension of 1/30 pay + DA to the DRMs working in the APWD as per GOI OM dated 07th June, 1988. CE, APWD informed that proposal for additional fund has been submitted in RE 2016-17 and accordingly, Chief Secretary has directed that

the matter be put up to Lt. Governor within next week for consideration/ approval. It is expected that payment of 1/30th Pay + DA to DRMs will be effective from 1st April, 2017. Regarding final payment to the ex-ATI workers, it was informed that Supreme Court has granted time for 03 months for compliance of order for settlement of

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Coconut based products at Andaman Bazaar

Port Blair, Jan 24
The fourth chapter of quarterly event "Andaman Bazaar", a Buyer-Seller Meet got underway yesterday at ITF Ground here. It is a unique approach of the Administration to provide a common platform to the farmers, entrepreneurs, SHGs, NGO and MSMEs for marketing their agriculture produce/ products directly to the customer.

showcase value added coconut based products produced/ manufactured by coconut based enterprises (SMEs and SHGs) in the Islands. The stall has been jointly developed by Directorate of Industries in association with State Social Welfare Board functioning under Andaman & Nicobar Administration and Coir Board, Port Blair under the theme "Gateway to Coconut Industries".

powder, coconut oil, coconut based sweets and handicrafts etc. manufactured by local Enterprises (SMEs), Self Help Groups promoted by Coir Board, Yuvasakthi NGO and UNNATI (NGO) are on display. The objective of creating a

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Kavi Sammelan at HSKP

Port Blair, Jan 24
Like in the previous year, this year too, the Hindi Sahitya Kala Parishad will be organising 'Kavi Sammelan' on the eve of Republic Day at Hindi Bhawan at 6 pm on January 25, 2017. Noted poets from these Islands will present their self-composed poems on the occasion.

The Secretary, PBMC, Shri Yashpal Garg will be the chief guest while Smt. Renuka Garg will preside over the function, a communication said.

Sitting of State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission

Port Blair, Jan 24
Justice Asim Kumar Ray, President of State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (State Commission), A&N Islands will hold sitting of the State Commission's Court with effect from Jan 30 to Feb 8, 2017 at Port Blair in the State Commission's building, Directorate of Civil Supplies Complex, Port Blair.

All the litigants, whose matters are pending before the State Commission, A&N Islands have been asked to appear before the Commission. The cause list may see in the website i.e. www.confonet.nic.in, a communication from the Registrar, State

PBMC removes encroachments from MG & Municipal Markets

Port Blair, Jan 24
The Port Blair Municipal Council, in a drive has removed a number of encroachments from the town yesterday. These include a huge semi-permanent structure, being used as shop, adjacent to PBMC Head Quarter. Though the PBMC had informed the occupant that his request for permission for construction of permanent structure in the open space adjacent to shop no. 1 cannot be allowed, yet

Commission said here today.

Circuit Court

Port Blair, Jan 24
Justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya and Justice Ishan Chandra Das, Judges of the Calcutta High Court shall be sitting/holding Circuit Court at Port Blair on Jan 30 to Feb 13, 2017, a communication said.

Closure of Forest Museum

Port Blair, Jan 24
The Forest Museum and Chatham Saw Mill will remain closed for tourists/public on Jan 30, 2017 due to administrative reasons, a communication from the Dy. Conservator of Forests, Mill Division, Chatham said.

Full-swing preparations for Republic Day celebrations in Isles; full dress rehearsal held

Port Blair, Jan 24
Full swing preparations are on to celebrate Republic Day in a befitting manner in these Islands too together with the rest of the country on January 26, 2017. The main function for the Republic Day will be held at the historic Netaji Stadium wherein the Lt. Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi will unfurl the National tricolor. Meanwhile, as part of the preparations, a full dress rehearsal for the Republic Day was held at the Netaji Stadium today.

As per the programme chalked out for the Republic Day celebrations, the Lt. Governor will unfurl the National tricolor at 0835 hrs, distribute medals, gallantry awards & Commendation Certificates and thereafter address the Islanders. March past by Defence Forces, Police, NCC contingents, school boys & girls followed by tableaux presentation and cultural programme by school children will be the other highlights of the Republic Day function which will conclude with the national anthem. Before arriving at the Netaji

Stadium for the main function, the Lt. Governor will visit National Memorial Cellular Jail and place wreath at the 'Martyr's Column' there.

To celebrate the occasion, the prominent places in the city are being given a face lift with the historical monuments and government buildings being white coated. Elaborate traffic arrangements and traffic diversions have also been put in place for the main function of the Republic Day celebrations on Jan 26, 2017.

No fresh case of polio reported in Isles Pulse Polio Immunization progs. in Isles on Jan 29 & Feb 2

Port Blair, Jan 24
There has not been a single case of fresh polio, reported in the Islands during the last three years, since the period the United Nations Organization (UNO) declared India as polio free nation, said that Director of Health Services, Dr. Shipra Paul while briefing media persons in the auditorium of GB Pant Hospital here today. She attributed this to the cooperation extended to the DHS by the parents of the children in particular, and the people of the

Islands in bringing their children in the Pulse Polio Immunization booths during PPI for getting their children immunized with Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV), in general.

She informed that 99.9% children were covered during the last year's PPI programme and emphasized that there is need to keep the disease at bay by organizing yearly PPI programme as the Islands are frequented by tourists, both domestic and foreign and are at high risk of wild polio infection.

The DHS urged the scribes to sensitize people the significance of pulse polio immunization programme through print and electronic media and to bring their children for immunization.

Giving detail of the Intensive Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) programme to be organized this year, the Deputy Director (Health)/State Immunization Officer, Dr. Avijit Roy informed that two rounds of PPI will be organized this year. The

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If you turned 18 years as on 01.01.2017 you are eligible to enroll your name in the Parliamentary electoral roll.

SPORTS

WEATHER

Rain or thundershower likely to occur at isolated places. Maximum and minimum temperature will be around 30°C and 25°C respectively on Wednesday 25/01/2017
Observational data for Port Blair in last 24 hours
 Maximum Temperature (°C): 29.6
 Minimum Temperature (°C): 25.6
 Relative Humidity (%) at 0830 IST: 085
 Relative Humidity (%) at 1730 IST: 081
 Sunrise Time for tomorrow (in IST): 0544
 Sunset Time for tomorrow (in IST): 1719
 Rainfall upto 0830 hrs of date (last 24 hrs) in mm: 000.0
 Rainfall upto 1730 hrs of date in mm: 000.2
 Rainfall (Progressive total from 1st January 17: 92.1 upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm

ICC confirms squads for Women's World Cup Qualifier

Australian Open: Vandeweghe, Venus & Wawrinka enter Singles semi-finals

Dubai, Jan 24
 The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday (January 24) confirmed the squads for the 10-team ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier to be held in Sri Lanka's capital Colombo from February 7-21. India Women opener Smriti Mandhana sustained an ACL rupture on her left knee towards the end of her debut Women's Big Bash League season and will be undergoing surgery in Australia. In a last-minute change, Mandhana has been replaced by middle order bat Mona Meshram, who incidentally was the only absentee from the 15-member squad of India's last ODI assignment, against West Indies in Mulapadu. The top four sides from the Super Six stage, in which each side will play three matches against teams from the other group, will complete the eight-team line-up at the World Cup. The two teams with maximum points will fight it out in the title clash on February 21, while the fifth and sixth placed sides will secure ODI status for the next four years. India have been clubbed along with Sri Lanka, Ireland, Zimbabwe and Thailand in Group A, while the Group B comprises South Africa, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Scotland and Papua New Guinea.

Jimmy, Kopi John, Ravini Oa, Konio Oala, Norma Ovasaru, Hinamutawa Philip, Tanya Ruma, Brenda Tau and Mairi Tom. Coaches: Rodney Maha and Cathryn Fitzpatrick
Pakistan: Sana Mir (captain), Aiman Anwar, Aliya Riaz, Anam Amin, Ayesha Zafar, Bibi Nahida, Bismah Maroof, Ghulam Fatima, Javeria Wadood, Maham Tariq, Nashra Sunthu, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz (wicket keeper) and Nain Abidi. Coach: Mohammad Kabir
Scotland: Abbi Aitken (captain), Kari Anderson, Kathryn Bryce, Sarah Bryce (wicket keeper), Naz Chatterji, Kirstie Gordon, Samantha Hagg, Lorna Jack (wicket keeper), Abtaha Maqsood, Katie McGill, Liz Priddle, Ollie Rae, Rachel Scholes and Fi Urquhart. Coach: Steve Knox
South Africa: Dane Van Niekerk (captain), Trisha Chetty (wicketkeeper), Moseline Daniels, Mignon Du Preez, Yolani Fourie, Lara Goodall, Shabnim Ismail, Marizanne Kapp, Ayabonga Khaka, Lizelle Lee, Matshipi Letsoalo, Sune Luus, Chloe Tryon and Laura Wolvaardt. Coach: Hilton Moreeng
Sri Lanka: Inoka Ranaweera (captain), Chamari Athapaththu, Inoshi Fernando, Nipuni Hansika, Eshani Lokusooriya, Sugandika Kumari, Harshitha Madhavi, Dilani Manodara, Hasini Perera, Udeshika Prabodani, Chamari Polgampola, Malsha Shehani, Prasadani Weerakkodi and Sripali Weerakkody (wicketkeeper). Coach: Hemantha Devapriya.
Thailand: Sornarin Tippoch (captain), Shagufta Arwae, Nattaya Boochatham, Naruemoi Chaiwai (wicketkeeper), Natthakan Chantham, Rosenanee Kanoh, Nannapat Khoncharoenkai (wicket keeper), Suleeporn Laomi, Sotaya Lateh, Ratanaporn Padunglerd, Sirintra Saengsakaorat, Sainamin Saanya, Rattana Sangsoma, Chanida Suththiruang. Coach: Janak Champika Gamage
Zimbabwe: Sharne Mayers (captain), Precious Marange, Esther Mbofana, Pellagia Mujaji, Modester Mupachikwa (wicketkeeper), Marry-Anne Musonda, Nomatter Mutasa, Ashley Ndiraya, Josephine Nkomo, Nonhlanhla Nyathi (wicketkeeper), Loreen Tshuma, Tasmeen Granger, Nomvelo Sibanda and Anesu Mushangwe. Coach: Trevor Phiri.

Melbourne, Jan 24
 In Australia Open Tennis, Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian team-mate Gabriela Dabrowski have stormed into the Mixed Doubles quarterfinals. The pair defeated Poland's Lukasz Kubot and Yung-Jan Chan of Chinese Taipei, 6-4, 5-7, 10-3 in the second round this morning. Sania Mirza and her Croatian team-mate Ivan Dodig will play in the second round later today. Meanwhile, in the Singles, American Coco Vandeweghe, who had stunned world number one Angelique Kerber in the fourth round, today saw off seventh seed Garbine Muguruza to enter the semi-finals. She defeated Muguruza, in straight sets, 6-4, 6-0. Venus Williams also progressed to the semis.

Federer beats Zverev to reach Australian Open semifinal

Melbourne, Jan 24
 Four-time champion Roger Federer took apart Mischa Zverev 6-1 7-5 6-2 with a clinical display of all-court tennis to reach his 13th Australian Open semifinal in 92 minutes on Tuesday. Chasing his 18th grand slam title, and first since 2012, the 35-year-old Federer neutered his left-handed German opponent's serve-and-volley game to set up a last-four meeting with fellow Swiss Stan Wawrinka. Zverev had upset world number one and top seed Andy Murray in the fourth round but found Federer an altogether tougher proposition on Rod Laver Arena, losing the first set in 19 minutes before gradually finding the rhythm of the match. The world number 50 contributed fully to an entertaining, if short, contest with his fine volleying and net play but Federer is no slouch in that department either and his 65th winner sent him into a 41st grand slam semifinal.

Annual athletic meet of GSS Jirkatang held

Port Blair, Jan 24
 35th annual athletic meet 2016-17 of GSS Jirkatang was held in the school premises on Jan 23 in which the DEO, Wimberlygunj, Shri Gyansheel Dubey was the chief guest. Earlier, Shri R.N. Tiwari, GTT (In-charge) welcomed the gathering. The people of Jirkatang and Miletal village were also present on the occasion. The vote of thanks proposed by Shri Mackenroe, GTT. Meanwhile, the DEO, Wimberlygunj also released the school logo on Jan 23. The school logo was designed & created by Shri T. Krishnamoorthy, GTT, GSS, Jirkatang, communications said.

Chief Secretary directs ..

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 ATI workers. DC SA informed that the process of award of land to PMB will be completed by April 2017 and payment to ATI worker would be settled by May 2017. The Chief Secretary directed that PMB should take necessary action so that payment to ATI workers is settled by May, 2017. Similarly, regarding payment of wages to workers (Security Guard) engaged by M/s Gorkha in the DHS from 10/2015 to 12/2015 (03 months), DHS informed that out of three payments pending for Gorka Security service, 2 payments i.e. Rs. 15 lakh and Rs.45 lakhs has been paid after deducting EPF amount. The Chief Secretary directed the DHS to take necessary action in consultation with Labour Commissioner to pay wages directly to workers besides action against the agency for non payment of EPF for the employees working with the form. It was further directed that Labour Commissioner should provide support to various Departments of Administration and sensitize them with all the provision in Labour Law to ensure that all the statutory payment are made by the agency. On implementation of priority works of SAGYs i.e., in Ferrargunj, Ramnagar and Kinyuka village, the Chief Secretary directed that all the priority works given by Member of Parliament should be completed in a time bound manner i.e., in April 2017. It was further directed to all the departments to take up the SAGY works in a mission mode manner and fortnightly report from DCs of all the three districts be submitted to CS Office and all issues be settled before the meeting so that more meaningful discussion are held during the review meetings. The meeting also decided that all SAGYS works will be put on fast tracking mode and in this regard, the Chief Secretary will visit Ramnagar village and hold a meeting there shortly. Regarding Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, the DC SA informed that JNV has initiated action to select students for starting the school from next academic session 2017-2018. CS directed the CE, APWD to complete refurbished work before June, 2017 as the existing staff quarters needs to be refurbished to make temporary hostel separately for girls and boys for 60 students. Process for allotment of required land and creation of permanent infra at Chouldari are under active consideration. For Sainik School in A & N Islands, as per the suggestion given by Member of Parliament it was decided in the meeting that the land is available at Little Andaman and Madhupur at Diglipur for setting up of Sainik School. Regarding requirement of fund, Administration may send proposal to MHA. Other issues such as early completion works of bridges, construction of roads, bank erosion etc were discussed which will be reviewed in the next meeting to be fixed shortly and Member of Parliament will submit priority list for review, a communication from MP Office said here said.

First Lady exhorts ..

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 share their problems and also for receiving any counselling and other assistance.

The Deputy Director, Health, Dr. Avijit Roy spoke about the contribution of Health Department in taking forward the 'Beti Bachao Beti Pado' programme of the Government and the various scheme of the Health Department meant for women of different ages.

The Deputy Director (Education Department), Smti. Suman Devi spoke about the steps being taken by the Department for holistic development of girl students in A&N Islands.

The Sub-Inspector, Police Department Smti. Jyoti Chatwal spoke about the role of A&N Police in empowerment of women.

The girls of Ballika Niketan presented a beautiful action song while a nukkad natak on cleanliness, tobacco and alcoholism- 'Atma Manthan', directed by Padma Shree Awardee Shri Naresh Chander Lall, and a magic show by the Song and Drama Division, Govt. of India were the other highlights of the programme.

The programme concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Director, Social Welfare, Shri Jitendra Agarwal.

Pulse Polio Immunization ..

(Contd. from page 1)
 first round will be conducted on January 29, 2017 while the second will be held on 2nd February 2017, he said. As many as 616 PPI booths have been set up across the Islands, to cover as many as 28121 children of the age group 0-5 years. Besides, mobile PPI booths will also be arranged for commuters/passengers in places like jetties, bus terminals etc. to cover children travelling with their parents, he said. Of the 616 booths, 305 booths have been set up at South Andaman District for 17656 children, 246 at North & Middle Andaman for 7474 and 65 in Nicobar District for 2991 children, he said. This year, efforts are being made to cover cent percent PPI throughout the Islands, he said. Dr. Roy also informed that besides the immunization programme to be conducted in the set up booths, the PPI teams will also conduct house to house visit to cover the uncovered children, who for one reason or the other are unable to visit the PPI booths during PPI programme. Places frequented by tourists, such as tourists hotspots will also be visited by PPI team to be deployed for immunizing tourists' children of the age group 0-5 years, he said. In addition, 10 PPI booths have also been set up for as many as 925 children of Defence personnel at Port Blair, he said adding that the Health Department is taking the help of line departments such as Social Welfare, PRIs, CDPO etc in carrying out the PPI activities throughout the Islands.

Aadhaar related ..

(Contd. from page 1)
 services viz. enrolment, updation in aadhaar and grievance redressals are being extended to the citizens from 3 pm to 8 pm. This centre will function at ITF ground till 27th January, 2017.

Meanwhile, the general public have been requested to avail these services at ITF ground and grievances if any, may also be registered with UIDAI representatives available in the stall so that the same can be sorted out on priority basis, a communication from the Deputy Director (CS&CA) said here today.

Scholarship Fair in JNRM



Port Blair, Jan 24
 The Directorate of Tribal Welfare, A & N Administration conducted a one-day Scholarship fair for Tribal Students in JNRM recently. Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Commissioner (TW), Shri Arun Kumar Jha explained the procedure for filling up of forms and attaching the necessary documents for speedy processing of the forms. Speaking earlier, the Principal JNRM, Dr.N. Francis Xavier lauded the efforts of the Tribal Welfare Department in coming to college and interacting with the tribal students. Ms. Jochibed Vincent, Assistant Professor (English) and Nodal Officer for Tribal Students coordinated the programme.

Special gram sabhas on Jan 26

Port Blair, Jan 24
 A programme on 'capacity building on cash less transactions' will be held on Jan 25 at 2.30 pm in coordination with the bank authorities under Calicut Gram Panchayat and also a gram sabha meeting will be held on Jan 26 in the premises of community hall, Calicut just after the un-furl of National Flag at 8.30 am. Meanwhile, a special gram sabha meeting of Hope Town Gram Panchayat will be held on Jan 26 at 10 am in the Panchayat Bhavan premises. Similarly, a special gram sabha meeting of Gram Panchayat Mithakhari will be held on Jan 26 at 10 am at community hall of Ranchi Basti, Mithakhari for drafting of 15 year vision of India with the spirit of 'One Nation, One Vision', a communications said.

Fruits & vegetables for sale

Port Blair, Jan 24
 Fruits and vegetables will be available for sale to the general public from Jan 25, 2017 onwards in the ANCOFED Green Shop, Goalghar, a communications said.

Admn. revises ..

(Contd. from page 1)
 Islands. Accordingly, the retail selling price of SKO per litre will be Rs.21.85 while the wholesale price of SKO per litre will be Rs.20.50/-. The revised rates shall come into force with immediate effect, a communication from the Assistant Controller (LM), Directorate of CS&CA said.

Coconut based..

(Contd. from page 1)
 coconut corner is to create awareness and attract investment in the area of development of coconut based industries in the Islands, a communication said.