Morning News Script

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Union Cabinet has approved two year extension of Agniveers who were earlier set to exit after four years of service. Briefing media after the Union Cabinet meeting in New Delhi yesterday , CDS General NS Raja Subramani said, 75 per cent of Agniveers who had to exit will now be given an additional two-year engagement period, after which the willing Agniveers can enrol in the Armed Forces. He stated that the first batch of Agniveers is now nearing the completion of their four-year tenure. He said, based on the performance evaluations conducted over these four years, Army has received positive feedback about their performance. He said that 25 per cent of the Agniveers are to be enrolled into the regular forces based on merit. General Raja Subramani said that under the scheme, the remaining 75 percent of Agniveers will now be offered an additional engagement period of two years. He said, upon the completion of this two-year period, all those Agniveers who are willing to continue will be enrolled into the Armed Forces. He said, the extension will come with higher remuneration.

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Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar launched the 'Vayo Samman Rashtriya Abhiyan', a National Intergenerational Bonding Campaign, under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana in New Delhi yesterday . The initiative is aimed at strengthening intergenerational solidarity and promoting a society that recognises and values the experience, wisdom and contributions of senior citizens. Addressing the gathering, Dr Kumar described the campaign as the blend of experience and energy, bringing together the experience of senior citizens and the energy of younger generations. He highlighted that country's population aged sixty years and above is projected to increase from approximately ten crore in the year 2011 to twenty three crore by the year 2036.

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Principal Secretary of the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Y Kikheto Sema, has called for stronger community participation in biodiversity conservation , saying the responsibility of protecting Nagaland's forests cannot rest with the government alone. He was speaking at the valedictory session of the two-day State-Level Workshop on "Community Conservation: Celebrating Success and Charting the Future" organised by Forest and Biodiversity Management in the Himalaya (Nagaland) Project (FBMP) at Kohima yesterday. Mr Sema expressed concern the loss of forest cover in Nagaland despite various conservation interventions and attributed the decline to uncontrolled human activities. Calling upon the 64 Community Conserved Areas villages to take a greater role in conservation, he urged them to become ambassadors of biodiversity protection and encourage neighbouring communities to follow their example. Mr Sema also raised concerns over land ownership issues, observing that although less than 4 percent of forests in Nagaland were government-owned, the Forest Department was often blamed for human-wildlife conflicts. He said Article 371(A), while safeguarding Naga land and customary rights, should not become an obstacle to development.

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The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has launched the ‘Khelo Bharat: From Manufacturing to Podium Finish Quiz’ on the MY Bharat portal yesterday . The quiz aims to raise awareness about the government’s efforts to strengthen country's sports ecosystem. It also promotes domestic sports goods manufacturing and innovation. The quiz is open to citizens, students, youth, professionals and sports enthusiasts. It will remain open until 20th of this month.

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And in local sports, The second edition of the Dr. K.C. Nihoshe Memorial Trophy Open Football Championship commenced at the District Sports Complex Ground, Zunheboto, with six teams vying for the title. Organised by Trojans Club Zunheboto, the championship will continue until November 18. The six teams have been divided into two groups, with the top two teams from each group advancing to the semi-finals.

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