

Exercise 1 - December 2025 Progressive Magazine

The debate on planning is a truly national occasion and I am glad that Hon'ble Members have taken it seriously // even though there has been much criticism. We have got used to such criticism. First, it used to be on // the very concept of planning. Fortunately, that stage is over and we have come to a phase of development when // all parties, I hope, approve of the idea of planning.

Some have approved of some portions of the plan but // (80) have reserved their criticism for the manner in which many programmes have been implemented. There are some who do not // at all approve of the manner in which we plan. Now, obviously, each one of us stand for certain ideas // and for certain methods of functioning.

We have, after considerable thought and deliberation, decided on the sort of Planning Commission // which we should have and the manner in which it should work. The Planning Commission consists of independent, non-party, non-political // (160) experts, but even they are not solely responsible for the plan.

The plan is drawn up on the basis of // numerous discussions with people at different levels from every single State and finally the plan takes its final shape in // the National Development Council in which all the Chief Ministers, many of them belonging to other parties, sit together and // express their views. It is true that at these meetings there is also disagreement, not normally on the method of // (240) planning but more about how much each State should get. We all know that none of our programmes are adequate // for our population's needs.



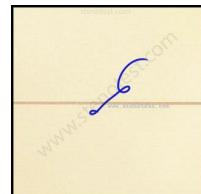
At all times there has to be a balancing between available resources and what our people // need, what we think, should be done for them or even what should be done for one area or another. //



By and large, the plan is a charter of progress for the next four years. We have some idea of // (320) how it has functioned already since it has been in existence for a year. Although this formal discussion on the // final plan is taking place how, we had a very fine discussion.

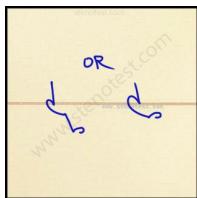
When the plan was settled in to draft // stage an Hon'ble Member said that there was no sense of urgency in the Plan.

I would like to say // that this is not correct. I think that is the difference between the draft outline and the final document.



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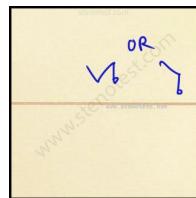
Development



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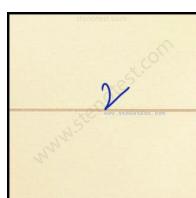
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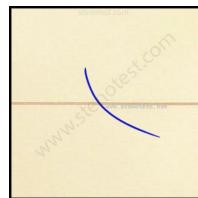
Ideas



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Functioning



After



Considerable



Thought



Deliberation



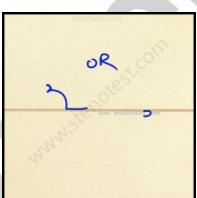
Decided



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Work



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Experts



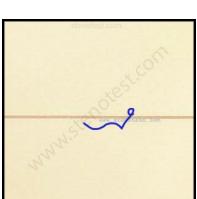
Solely



Responsible



Drawn



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Discussions



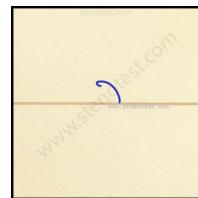
People



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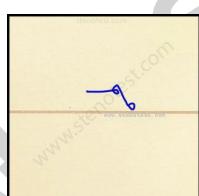
Other



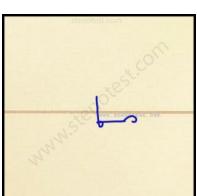
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Disagreement



Normally



How



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Adequate



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Balancing



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Outline



Document