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December 26, 1973

My dear JP,

Last night we had a meeting of the Trustees of the Adult Education Institute at my place. Mr. Dandekar and Dr. R.C. Cooper are my colleagues. We decided that in view of the controversy between the Prime Minister and Biju Patnaik and our own past interest in this matter - we had arranged a seminar in Bombay in March 1973 on "Economic Development and State Autonomy" - we would organise a further discussion on this subject some time in the second half of February, preferably on the 23rd and 24th in Delhi soon after Parliament reconvenes. One of the people we felt we would like most to have with us is of course yourself.

This morning when I opened my newspaper, what do I find but a message from Madras, where you seem to be at the moment, saying that you were thinking of calling a meeting of some kind for a discussion of this very topic. It seems that as usual great minds think alike!

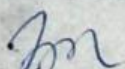
May I suggest, JP, that we cooperate on this matter. Of course your own thoughts about the nature of this discussion and the participants will naturally be borne in mind.

Naturally it would be a non-party and a non-partisan affair, and we had thought that we would select a few appropriate persons from among the ranks of publicists and journalists, educationists and public men and a cross section of the intelligentsia.

Insofar as the auspices are concerned, naturally the Adult Education Institute, which is in a position to allocate a reasonable amount of money for the organisation of the discussion, would be one of the sponsors. I would like to know if you have any ideas of co-sponsorship by one of the institutes with which you are connected. We would not necessarily expect the other sponsor to make a major contribution and we would be prepared to bear a large share of the burden.

Since I do not know where you are proceeding from Madras I am posting this letter to your permanent address in Patna and hope it will get you in time, God and the Post Office willing!

Yours sincerely,


(M. N. MASANI)

Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan
Kadam Kuan
PATNA
mm/ed