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## Talk to tide over crisis - VCs meet on displacement

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**Ranchi, Jan. 20:** Vice-chancellors of universities in Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh — the tribal-dominated states where majority of industrial investments are proposed — have begun the process to evolve a platform in context of recent changes in the region.

“The idea is to actively engage the universities in the process of dialogue to continuously generate knowledge about changing conditions and frame a proactive policy for academia, policy-makers and communities at large,” said the director of Mumbai-based Tata Institute of Social Sciences, S. Parasuraman.

TISS is organising the two-day vice-chancellors’ meet on the “tribal issues in central India” at a city hotel.

On the first day, the participants reached to a consensus that the real crisis in the wake of industrialisation based on natural resources in the region is displacement. But industrialisation with some precautions can assure people a place in the new economic setting, rather than forcing them into a situation resulting in displacement, disaffection and destitution.

Parasuraman, one of the eminent social scientists in India, said the central tribal tract, comprising three states, are passing through a crisis in the wake of globalisation and the major thrust on mining and industrial activity is posing a serious threat to traditional ways of livelihood for people, particularly tribals.

The idea to engage academia arises as the people who are facing the brunt are not considered fit enough for a political dialogue about the issues and transition in face of an economic development, he added.

Today’s deliberations by scientists from TISS pointed out that the policy-makers are not aware of people’s problems. “How come there is a policy for special economic zones and industrial policies but not a proper policy for rehabilitation?” they asked, adding that people are being taken into consideration at last when they should be in the core of the planning.