



# Directors of IISc

Over the last 100 years, IISc has been led by scientists who have contributed significantly to the growth and eminence of the institute.

## M W Travers



Morris Travers was IISc's first Director in 1909. In addition to setting up the departments of chemistry and electro-technology, the main building was also commissioned during his time as Director.

## M S Thacker



MS Thacker was the first IISc Director from an engineering field. He actively promoted engineering research in the Institute and later went on to hold other important positions in science and technology organisations – he became the Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in 1955.

## Alfred Bourne



Sir Alfred G Bourne, a distinguished biologist, succeeded Travers in 1914. This was a challenging period for the fledgling Institute, compounded by the outbreak of World War I. He emphasised the value of research in basic sciences and is remembered as a researcher and teacher.

## Jnan Chandra Ghosh



Sir JC Ghosh was a pioneer in the growth of scientific research and technical education in India. He was the Director of IISc for nearly a decade (1939-1948), during which the Institute expanded its focus on engineering – the departments of aeronautics, power and high voltage, metallurgy and others came into existence during his tenure.

## Martin Onslow Forster



Sir MO Forster took over the reins in 1922. During his directorship that spanned about a decade, several changes in terms of new courses and research programmes were initiated. He also ensured adequate funds for campus amenities for sports and physical fitness. After his retirement in 1933, he accepted an invitation from the Maharaja and settled down in the city of Mysore where he stayed until his death in 1945.

## C V Raman



Sir CV Raman was already a celebrated physicist and Nobel laureate when he became the first Indian Director of IISc in 1934. During his tenure, the Department of Physics blossomed into a leading department for teaching and research.

## S Bhagavantam



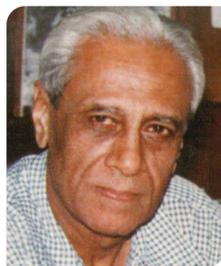
S Bhagavantam took over in 1957. A distinguished physicist, he had started his research career as a member of CV Raman's group in 1928. He was later appointed Scientific Advisor to the Minister of Defence in 1962, and played a crucial role in enhancing India's military capabilities.

## Anurag Kumar



Anurag Kumar, who joined the IISc's Department of Electrical Communication Engineering as a faculty member in 1988, has been Director of IISc since 2014.

## Satish Dhawan



Satish Dhawan, a renowned aerospace scientist, became Director in 1962 and remained so for nearly two decades. For much of that period, he also served simultaneously as Director of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), and apart from his immense contributions to the national space programme, he expanded IISc significantly in new directions, setting up new departments and centres of study such as the Centre for Theoretical Sciences and the Cell for Application of Science and Technology to Rural Areas.

## P Balam



P Balam, a noted biochemist, became Director in 2005 and was in the position for nearly a decade. A number of interdisciplinary centres such as the Centre for Nano Science Engineering were established during his tenure.

## S Ramaseshan



S Ramaseshan served as Joint Director from 1979, and Director from 1981-1984. Known for his work on crystallography and materials science, he is also remembered for his fostering of institutions and efforts to promote scientific journals.

## Goverdhan Mehta



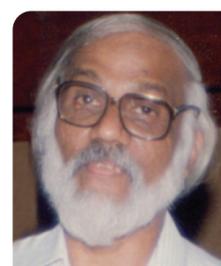
Goverdhan Mehta, who was formerly Vice Chancellor of the University of Hyderabad, was Director of the Institute from 1998-2005. An internationally acclaimed researcher in organic chemistry, he was also actively involved in science policy and education.

## C N R Rao



CNR Rao, a renowned chemist took over as the Director in 1984 and guided the institute over the next 10 years. He was conferred the Bharat Ratna in 2013 for his lasting contributions to science. He currently serves as the Head of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India.

## G Padmanaban



G Padmanaban took charge in 1994. His primary research fields are biochemistry and biotechnology and he remains associated with the Institute as an Honorary Professor in the Department of Biochemistry. He is a recipient of both the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Shri.