Mahatma Gandhi did not reject modern science; he did, however, have his reservations about many aspects of how it was being done. He believed that the problems of the poor and those at the margins of society should be the focus of scientific research. In his view, it would lead to unemployment on a large scale, a view that was in conflict with those in the scientific establishment (including Sir CV Raman, an ardent admirer of the Mahatma himself. In spite of his apprehensions about science and technology, Gandhi visited the Institute twice, in 1927 and in 1936.

During his first visit on 12 July 1927, he gave a speech outlining his vision for research at the Institute. A report of his visit and speech was published the following day in The Hindu and reproduced on 21 July 1927 in Young India, a weekly paper published by Gandhi.

Full text of Gandhi's speech

Gandhi's second visit to IISc was in the summer of 1936. An ailing and frail Gandhi was advised complete rest by his doctors. He chose to recuperate at Nandi Hills near Bangalore. During his stay, he was visited by Sir CV Raman, the then Director of the Institute, and his wife, Lokasundari. Raman invited Gandhi to IISc, and Gandhi readily accepted the invitation. He came to IISc on 12 June, 1936 and left Bangalore the same day.

Gandhi at IISc