The Foundation Stone (also called the Corner Stone) was laid only on 1 February 1911 in a ceremony presided over by Maharaja of Mysore Krishnaraja Wadysar almost three years after the construction of the Main Building began.

It was a grand event; the approaches to the venue were decorated and a huge shamana was erected beneath the crane that was helping with on-going construction.

The day began with a reception organised by the Council for the Maharaja. The ceremony of laying the stone followed introductory remarks by the Director Morris Travers and speeches by Dorabji Tata (son of JN Tata) and CF Stevens, the architect of the building.

The Foundation Stone of the Main Building

The programme of events

The Council’s invite for the ceremony

The Foundation Stone of the Main Building

After the ceremony, the Maharaja gave a long speech in which he recounted the history of how the Institute was set up and also paid tribute to the founder JN Tata.

Those assembled at the ceremony were then treated to music performed by the Band of the 2nd Battalion Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders.

The celebration was not limited to 1 February. The eve of the Foundation Stone laying ceremony – the night of 31 January 1911 – also saw several social gatherings to celebrate the occasion.

The Travers had a post-dinner party late that night following soirées organised by the Hays and Norman Rudolph.

A report in the Times of India on the ceremony

Inveite for dinner party hosted by Alfred Hays (Professor, Electro-Technology) and his wife

Invites for dinner party hosted by Norman Rudolph (Professor, Applied Chemistry)

Music following the ceremony

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