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Founder's Day begins with drum jam session

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Known for being steeped in tradition and history, the Lawrence School at Lovedale near here became a trend setter of sorts on Wednesday.

The institution set in motion its three-day 152nd Founder's Day celebrations with a programme aimed at de-stressing not only its students and faculty but also parents and visitors.

The programme, facilitated by a Bangalore-based group involved a 'Drum Jam' session, which, apart from breaking barriers, set the tone for the celebrations in which the former Governor of West Bengal Gopal Gandhi will be participating as the chief guest on the concluding day.

Programme

The head of the group Roberto Narain told *The Hindu* that such a programme was being organized for the first time in the Nilgiris.

Earlier an exhibition was inaugurated by the President of the Old Lawrencians Association M.S.P.Senthil Kumar.

Among those present were the Headmaster Y.H.V.S.Prasad and Bursar C.Sunderaj.

A highlight was an eco model house put together by the Science Department.

The school which ranks as one of the leading public schools in this part of the world came into being in 1858.

Situated amidst sylvan surroundings, the school, which sprawls over about 700 acres, has had a chequered history.

Started as an asylum thanks to the efforts of a soldier and civil administrator Sir Henry Lawrence, it was converted into a military school and made a public school after Independence.

However the tragedy was that Sir Henry did not live to see his work come to fruition, having died on July 4, 1857 in the Lucknow Mutiny.

Before being christened The Lawrence School, it has over the years been referred to as the Ootacamund Lawrence Asylum, the Lawrence Memorial School and the Lawrence Memorial Royal Military School.

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