

Culture, Countries and Crops: The Harvest Harmony Exhibition

Pune, Maharashtra | 24th January, 2026



As part of the Republic Day celebrations themed around “Nation First” and “150 Years of Vande Mataram,” the school organised thoughtfully designed, student-centric learning experiences on 24th January, 2026, translating national values into meaningful and experiential education.

An enriching all-day British Council RIDS (Recognition of the International Dimension in Schools) activity titled “Harvest Harmony” was conducted under the aegis of the British Council for students of Grades VI and VII. The programme expanded the Republic Day theme beyond patriotic symbolism into a broader cultural and global context, encouraging students to explore how national identity is strengthened through cultural understanding, inclusivity, and global awareness.



As part of the activity, students curated a vibrant exhibition showcasing the cultural, social, and agricultural significance of harvest festivals across India and selected countries abroad. The displays featured thoughtfully designed props, artefacts, food items, and visual representations from Indian regions such as Punjab, Gujarat, Assam, and South India, alongside international perspectives from Greece and Hungary. Through these exhibits, students demonstrated how harvests are not merely agricultural events, but deeply rooted cultural practices that celebrate gratitude, community, and respect for nature.

Indian harvest traditions were presented with depth and clarity. The Punjabi section highlighted Baisakhi, focusing on thanksgiving, community feasts, and the celebration of the wheat harvest. The Gujarati display explored Uttarayan, illustrating the joy of harvest through kite flying, traditional cuisine, and social bonding. From Assam, students presented Magh Bihu, emphasising rice cultivation, community bonfires, and shared meals as symbols of unity and renewal. The South Indian segment showcased Pongal, explaining the ceremonial preparation of newly harvested rice, sugarcane, and lentils to honour nature, the sun, and the farming community.



The international segments added a valuable global dimension to the exhibition. Greece was represented through the symbolic use of olive wreaths, signifying abundance, peace, and victory — traditions deeply connected to olive cultivation and harvest cycles. The Hungarian display focused on pumpkins, explaining their cultural and seasonal importance as both a staple crop and a symbol in harvest-time festivities.



A key highlight of the exhibition was the emphasis on how harvested crops are transformed into celebrations through food, rituals, symbols, and communal practices. Students confidently traced the journey from field to festival, drawing meaningful connections between agriculture, sustainability, culture, and shared human values. Their presentations reflected strong research skills, collaboration, and an emerging global perspective.

The “Harvest Harmony” exhibition stood out as a powerful example of inquiry-based and experiential learning. It reinforced the idea that putting the nation first also involves understanding, respecting, and thoughtfully engaging with the world beyond one’s borders. By appreciating cultural diversity while recognising universal values such as cooperation, gratitude, and respect for nature, students experienced the true spirit of holistic education.

Through this British Council RIDS initiative, the school campus transformed into a living classroom, enabling students to deepen their cultural awareness, communication skills, empathy, and global outlook — perfectly complementing the ethos of Republic Day celebrations grounded in unity, purpose, and national pride.