

# Pune student wins gold at National Science Fair

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**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

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A SIXTH grade student in Pune won the gold medal at the INSEF National Science Fair in Rajkot in January.

Sonit Sisoekar, a student at the Blue Ridge Public School, won the medal in the junior category.

The Science Society of India runs INSEF at the regional and national level every year in association with a local institution. This year, at least 14 projects from school students around the country were selected for the national finals, and Sonit was the

sole representative from Pune.

Sonit's project was on "Can Unheard Sounds Make Seeds Germinate Faster? Testing the Effects Of Infrasonic and Audible Low Frequency Vibrations on the Germination and Growth of Kala Chana (*Cicer Arietinum*)". Prior to this research, Sonit had made a model of a bone conduction hearing aid last year.

A press release issued Thursday said Sonit was mentored by IISER Pune faculty, Dr Sutirth Dey, who is the coordinator of the Exciting Science Group (ESG). Dey helped Sonit refine his study design and use a variety of statistical tools for his data analysis.