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KJ Somaiya students have launched a pollution-mapping device that also offers specific solutions, and plots pollution levels on Google Maps

Five students from KJ Somaiya College of Engineering have invented a new device launched last week, to measure the rising pollution levels in the city.



The device, titled 'The Pollution Mapper', maps levels through a small-sized kit which can be placed in homes, buildings or on street lamps. It will evaluate a defined area –10 metres, for instance – and give real-time readings of pollutant levels, including carbon monoxide, dust, air quaquality, temperature, humidity and noise. Shetty and his team of five, including Dhiraj Gehlot, Amit Yadav, Jay Visariya and Gaurav Gandhi plan to collaborate with the Brihan-mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and other environmental organisations to take the project to the next level.

"Through the tool, you can view the pollution levels on Google Maps, and then provide specific solutions such as how many trees to plant to counter specific pollutants. "Our future plans are to make this device available to the common man, perhaps through a tiny module you plug into your mobile phone, or on public transport," says Gehlot, an electronics student.



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The five-member group plans to collaborate with the BMC to take the project to the public.

"I live in Kalyan, where there is constant construction and road repair work going on," says Gaurang Shetty, 25, a master's in information management of the college. "This has led to a lot of air pollution in the area, and made it difficult to live in. At the college's incubation centre, Riidl, we brainstormed and came up with the idea to make a device that monitors these levels, so as to work towards a pollution-free city."

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The team has followed an empirical approach to the study, and is currently working on validating and certifying the device and data.