A year after the launch of the Safe Cities programme, not much headway has been made in making cities safer for women.

Hindustan Times

While the plan to place Mumbai under the watch of a CCTV network had been in the works for several years, the project was made fully functional only in January 2019, with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurating 4,737 cameras covering 1,400 spots in the city. The feed from the cameras is viewed in real time at the Mumbai Police Control Room, enabling the police to keep an eye on law and order. The same feed is also beamed live to offices of senior officials under the Commission of Police (Law and Order).

Beyond technology

“An oversensitive ontology and policing will enhance security, but it will not necessarily make cities safer for women or enhance their access to public spaces,” says Balashree Vennamuthu, founder of LadFantasies, a mobile app that provides safety videos for different localities in India. Vennamuthu is among the members of the committee headed by Minister of Women and Child Development and Law and Women and Child Development and the Commission to formulate the draft of the Safe Cities programme. She has also been a part of the government’s sub-committee on women’s safety.

As she informs, the committee’s recommendations have been in place for the past five years. However, the recommendations have not been implemented.

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