

Amidst rising concerns over women's safety in the city, harness the power of technology with these eight apps tailored to enhance personal security

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Amidst Bangalore's vibrant life lies a troubling reality - a crisis concerning the safety of women. Almost every second day, headlines scream of women being harassed in the city's streets, public transport, and communal spaces.

A recent report by the Bangalore Police Crime Branch (CCRB) has cast a stark light on this issue, revealing a troubling 23.9% escalation in reported crimes against women in 2023 compared to the previous year. With 3,260 cases of crimes against women reported, molestation cases take the forefront among the data pointers.

Among these, there were "1,135 cases of molestation, 1,007 cases of dowry including 25 deaths, 696 cases of cruelty by husband, 176 cases of rape, and 60 cases of insulting modesty" reported.

This alarming surge in reported incidents underscores a pressing need for greater attention to the safety of women. While efforts are being made to improve infrastructure and government machinery, individuals can also take proactive steps towards their safety.

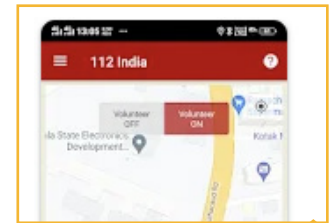
In this digital age, your smartphone can be a powerful tool for enhancing personal security. Curious about how? Here's a curated list of eight apps designed to empower you and prioritise your safety in the city's bustling streets.

APP-ING UP SAFETY



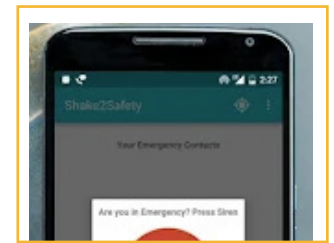
HELPLINE NUMBERS

- Police - 100
- Hoysala - 103
- Fire - 101
- Ambulance - 102
- Senior Citizen's Helpline-1098
- Women Helpline-1091



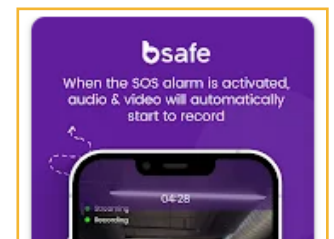
112 India

This is an SOS mobile app as part of the Centre's initiative for the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS), covering all states and union territories. The SOS alert on this app can be activated by pushing the power button when you feel your safety is compromised. What it does is send your exact location to the Control Room of the state, enabling dynamic emergency response services from the nearest vehicle.



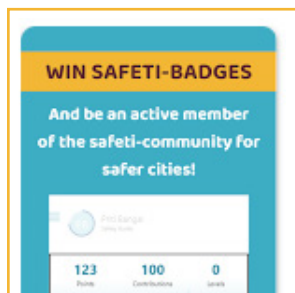
Shake2Safety

Shake2Safety simplifies seeking help by allowing users to shake their smartphones to trigger an alert. Alternatively, users can press the power button four times to send SOS messages or calls to pre-registered emergency contacts, even without internet access. Customisable sensitivity settings ensure effectiveness.



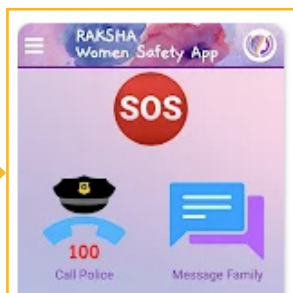
bSafe

This app allows your contacts to virtually follow you using a live GPS trail. It features a timed alarm for your availability status and a fake call to notify emergency contacts. The Guardian Alert button sends GPS location and video when in trouble, aiming to create evidence during mishaps.



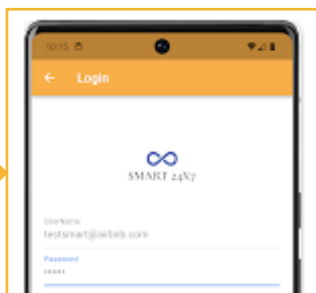
Safetipin

An app that can be downloaded for free on Apple and Android phones, Safetipin is all about personal safety. With GPS tracking, emergency contact numbers, directions to safe locations - the app relies on user input to identify unsafe areas and highlight safe spaces through images. Users can navigate new places, find safe routes, locate nearby public places, and enable family tracking. Additionally, users can contribute their experiences to enhance safety awareness.



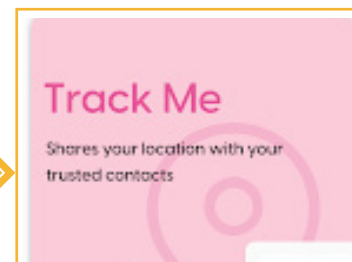
Raksha

The Raksha app is dedicated to ensuring women's safety at all times. It features an alert button that sends notifications to selected family and friends with the user's location in case of emergencies. Even when the app is turned off, users can activate alerts by pressing the volume key for three seconds. The app also includes an SOS feature to send SMS alerts without network connectivity.



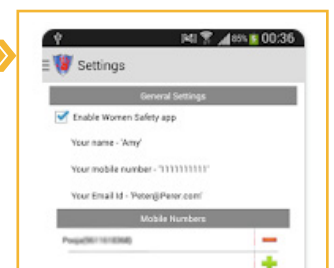
Smart24x7

Smart24x7 is a comprehensive personal safety and security app endorsed by various state police departments. It sends panic alerts to emergency contacts, records audio/photos of emergencies, and notifies authorities. Additionally, this app also assists corporate employees in tracking their cabs and managing their schedules. In case of emergencies, users can simply press the panic button and specify the type of service needed to receive support from the call centre.



I'm Safe

I'm Safe's "Track Me" feature enables loved ones to monitor users and provide assistance when needed. Users can set the duration of tracking and activate the SOS feature to alert emergency contacts with location, photos, and audio clips during emergencies. Apart from these Apps, in Bangalore, the police and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike have set up 30 safety booths for women, equipped with SOS buttons linked to woman cops. Activating these buttons alerts authorities, triggers CCTV cameras, and activates sirens for immediate assistance.



Women Safety

The Women Safety app offers a quick and simple way to notify loved ones when in unsafe situations. With just one tap, the app sends an email to pre-set addresses containing the user's location and a Google Maps link. It also captures images and audio/video clips to upload to the server and share with designated contacts.