NEW DELHI, Oct. 11. — Enforcement authorities for long have been able to track movements of people with the help of the cell phone used by them, but now researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have electronically mapped a whole city with the help of just the cell phone usage data, which in future could help authorities in responding to issues like traffic congestion and disasters in a city.

Using anonymous cell phone data, the researchers at the premier US institute created electronic maps of Graz, the second-largest city in Austria.

“The real-time city is now real: a system that is able to continuously sense its condition and can quickly react to its criticalities” says Mr Carlo Ratti, architect and engineer and head of the project at the SENSEable City Laboratory, MIT.

A cell phone network operating in the city of Graz sent anonymous information about the density of cell phone calls made and the origin and destination of calls. Combined with this, the team used the data of voluntary participants who agreed to get their mobiles “pinged” by the team, to map a whole city in all its
vibrancy.
Mr Ratti and his team used anonymous and voluntary data to offer traffic planners a new way to track congested areas in Graz. — PTI