

Dr. Arvind Verma receives grant to map terrorism in India!

Dr Verma, a former police officer from India and now an Associate Professor in our department has been researching the criminal justice system of India for many years. Even though the media focuses upon the Middle East and Al Qaeda for terrorism related news it is not well known that India is the second most affected country after Iraq in terms of terrorist attacks. Although, the Indian police have been battling these terrorist groups for many years but their operations have been largely fire-fighting efforts confined to investigation of specific cases and arrest-prosecution of terrorist operators. In recent years special police units have acquired some modern technological tools but these are still in their infancy. The applications of GIS in particular are still very limited though some police forces have obtained basic mapping capabilities. Recently, the Bureau of Police Research & Development [BPRD] at New Delhi invited Dr Verma to present a workshop on Geographical Profiling and Data Visualization to a selected group of officers. This project is in continuation of that workshop and aims to demonstrate the utility of mapping and GIS applications to Indian police officers using their own data. Furthermore, it also seeks to provide another test of theoretical perspectives of Environmental Criminology, Rational Choice and Routine Activities so far tested only in a handful of nations. The project is in collaboration with Dr Kim Rossmo of the Center for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation at the Texas State University.