

# HIMALAYAN TRIBUNE

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## Students on the hunt for hackers and secure systems

HM Report

Gangtok, Jan 6: *Who is this?* punches Rajiv Berlia, a 2nd year IT student from Jadavpur University in his computer as he tries to trace a stimulated hacking bid that entered his server set up at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology (SMIT) located at Mazitar, 40 kms away from Gangtok.

Immediately, the last few footprints of the hacker flashes in his monitor. With this preliminary information, Berlia and his team mates tries to sniff out the unauthorized intruder while at the same time, plugging the hole in his server through which the entry was made.

All this under the watchful eyes and guidance from the chief resource person Swapan Purkait of Nettech. Berlia and his team is a part of the 80 students from different engineering colleges who had assembled at SMIT for an 18 day training programme in Network Management and Ethical Hacking organized by Nettech. The students have been divided into 10 groups. Each



A student learning to rapple at SMIT rooftop.

### RAFTING, RAPPLING AND RED HAT: NETTECH'S 18 DAY PROGRAMME AT SMIT

group is setting up a secure DNS server to network computers at SMIT and has also to fend off challenges from other groups from hacking their server.

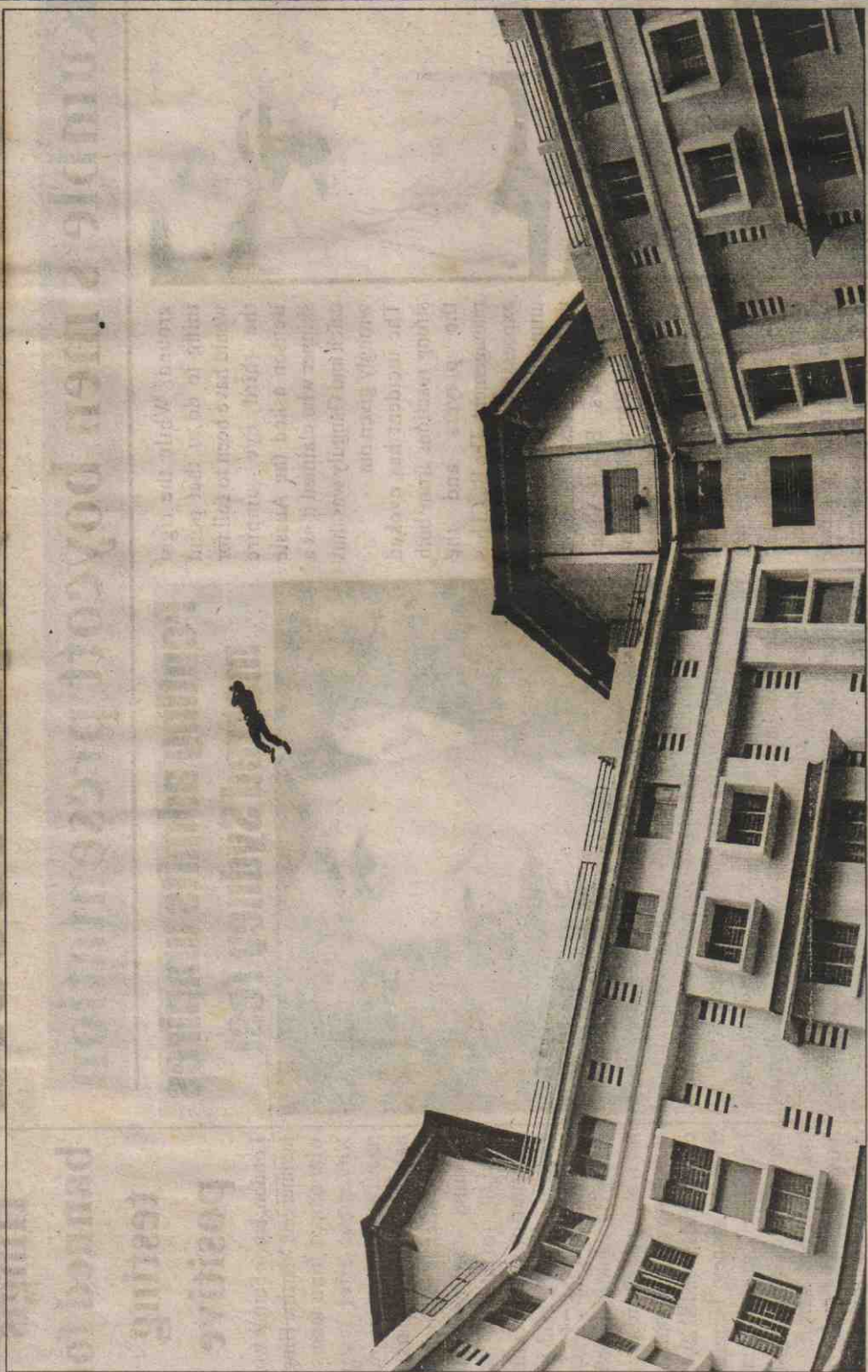
Nettech is a three year body of IT professionals working as faculties in different engineering institutes including IIT.

The body organizes workshops for students in the country with an objective of disseminating information on ethical hacking and to encourage students towards developing secure IT systems and networking programme based on Linux.

"By the end of the training program students will be able to design a Computer Lab which will not have any windows machine. It will be all Linux", said Sunayana Shetty, program co-ordinator, Nettech to media. Some of the participating colleges are Jadavpur University, National Institute of Technology, Bengal Engineering & Science College and others.

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# I BELIEVE I CAN TOUCH THE SKY



An instructor from Himalayan Mountaineering Institute demonstrating *terriyolis* (moving from one building rooftop to another on ropes) at SMIT complex leaving the students awestruck hundreds of feet below at the ground. The eight member HMI team led by Nudup Bhutia is giving a two day special training course for the engineering students undergoing a Nettech workshop. Such exposure helps to develop confidence among the students in their everyday life, said Bhutia. **HM Pic**

## Students on the hunt for hackers

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"The goal of an Ethical Hacker is to help the organization take preemptive measures against malicious attacks by attacking the system himself; all the while staying within legal limits", said Swapan Purkait, the chief resource person.

We also made them aware of the legal provisions and the penalties that attract for a hacker under IT Act, 2005, said Prukait adding that hackers can be caught. Though I am not sure whether I will specialize in network systems in future but I want to be learn to make sure that my system is secure, said Ushashi Chakraborty, a 4th year engineering student from Future Institute of Engineering and Management, Kolkatta.

The students are also involved in physical drill during the workshop and have done white water rafting along Teesta river and acquired basic mountaineering skills from Himalayan Mountaineering Institute.

With cyber crimes on an increase in the country, Nettech organizes such awareness cum training for the engineering students and has already done five this year. It will be including the lower lever stakeholder like internet service providers, government employees and entrepreneurs during a similar exercise at Goa on February this year.