



Launch of Advanced Cyber Security Certification Course at SAMVAAD- 2026 27th April 2026, BITS Pilani (Goa Campus)

The Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, in association with CERT-In, successfully launched the Cyber Security Certification Programme for Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks during the prestigious SAMVAAD 2026 – Annual Conference of CERT-In Empanelled Auditing Organisations, held at BITS Pilani, Goa.

The course was formally launched by Dr Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, marking a significant step towards strengthening cyber resilience in the financial sector.

The event was graced by eminent dignitaries:

- * Shri K. R. Chaurasia, Inspector General, Goa
- * Shri S. S. Sarma, Scientist 'G', CERT-In
- * Prof. Suman Kundu, Director, BITS Pilani, Goa Campus
- * Ashutosh Bahuguna, Scientist 'E', CERT-In

Dr. Nirupam Mehrotra, Director, BIRD Lucknow, was present at the occasion, representing the Institute.

SAMVAAD 2026 witnessed participation from over 400 professionals, including Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs), cyber security auditors, and domain experts, making it a premier platform for deliberations on emerging cyber threats and resilience strategies.

The Cyber Security Certification Programme is a comprehensive, practice-oriented initiative designed to enhance cyber resilience across the financial ecosystem, particularly for Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks. Delivered by BIRD Lucknow, established by NABARD, in collaboration with CERT-In, the programme integrates foundational knowledge with intensive hands-on training.

Key focus areas of the programme include:

- * Network Security
- * Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VA/PT)
- * Security Operations Centres (SOC)
- * SIEM tools and monitoring
- * Incident Response and Crisis Management
- * Digital Forensics

Through simulation-based learning, cyber drills, and real-world scenarios, participants gain the capability to detect, investigate, respond to, and recover from cyber threats effectively.

Aligned with the frameworks of Reserve Bank of India and CERT-In, the programme equips professionals with critical, industry-relevant skills required to safeguard banking systems, digital payments, and financial infrastructure against evolving cyber risks.

This initiative underscores the continued commitment of BIRD Lucknow and CERT-In towards building a robust and cyber-resilient financial ecosystem in the country.

A few photographs of the event are appended below:

