



**Punjab Information Technology Board**  
Government of the Punjab

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No. PITB/Admin/# 2690  
Dated: 5/19/2026

To  
All Administrative Secretaries  
Government of the Punjab

Subject: **Mandatory Hosting of Government Websites and Web Applications within Pakistan**

Reference:

- i. Cabinet Division (NTISB) letter regarding security and localization of official web hosting services bearing No. 36-66/61-41 (NTISB-II) dated 29th April, 2022.
- ii. National CERT (NCERT) advisory vide letter No. 1-1/2026/DG(NCERT)/301 dated 23rd April, 2026 regarding hosting of Government websites in Pakistan.
- iii. S&GAD, Government of the Punjab forwarding letter No. SO(FG-II)6-4/2026 dated 07th May, 2026.

- 1) It is submitted that National CERT (NCERT), Government of Pakistan, has conveyed serious cybersecurity concerns regarding hosting of Government websites, portals, and web applications on infrastructure located outside Pakistan. The advisory highlights that such practices expose Government systems, public-sector data, and citizen services to elevated cybersecurity risks, unauthorized access, jurisdictional complications, loss of data sovereignty, and potential compromise of critical information assets.
- 2) Furthermore, NCERT has categorically advised that hosting services for Government organizations are required to be shifted to local hosting/service providers within Pakistan in order to mitigate cyber threats and strengthen national cyber resilience.
- 3) In view of the above and in continuation of the directions issued by National CERT and Cabinet Division (NTISB), all Government Departments, Attached Departments, Autonomous Bodies, Subordinate Offices, and affiliated entities under the Government of the Punjab are hereby advised to ensure that all Government websites, portals, web applications, and associated public-facing digital services are mandatorily hosted within Pakistan on secure and compliant hosting infrastructure.
- 4) Accordingly, the following minimum hosting and cybersecurity requirements shall be ensured while procuring, onboarding, renewing, or migrating hosting infrastructure/services for Government websites and web applications:

**Mandatory Hosting & Security Requirements:**

- All Government websites, portals, and web applications shall be hosted within Pakistan on secure and compliant infrastructure or cloud service providers, in compliance with the Pakistan Cloud First Policy.
- Departments shall ensure compliance with applicable Government of Pakistan policies, National Cyber Security Policy, CERT Rules, cybersecurity advisories, and relevant information security requirements, and shall remain responsible of their systems and data as data owner.
- Departments shall ensure that hosting arrangements, SLAs, and contractual agreements with service providers adequately cover required security controls and compliance obligations, and

ensure sufficient control and visibility over their systems and data for fulfilling cybersecurity and regulatory responsibilities.

- The hosting infrastructure/data center shall preferably possess at least Tier-III certification (or equivalent) with high availability, redundancy, disaster recovery, backup, and business continuity arrangements.
- Appropriate data localization and access control measures shall be implemented to ensure protection of Government data and digital assets from unauthorized access, disclosure, alteration, or compromise.

#### **Baseline Security Controls:**

The hosting environment and acquired services shall include, at minimum, the following baseline cybersecurity controls:

- Next Generation Firewall (NGFW)
- Secure network segmentation
- Endpoint protection/security controls
- Secure backup and disaster recovery mechanisms
- Logging and monitoring mechanisms
- Anti-malware and threat protection controls

#### **Advanced Security Controls:**

Departments are further advised to implement advanced cybersecurity controls including, but not limited to:

- Web Application Firewall (WAF)
- Continuous Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT)
- Privileged Access Management (PAM)
- Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)
- Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) / Security Operations Center (SOC) monitoring
- Continuous security monitoring and incident response mechanisms
- Secure SSL/TLS configurations and certificate management
- Security hardening and patch management processes

- 5) All departments are further requested to review their existing hosting arrangements and initiate necessary measures for migration of any foreign-hosted Government websites, portals, and web applications to local hosting infrastructure within Pakistan in compliance with the above directives and applicable national cybersecurity requirements.
- 6) Furthermore, all Administrative Departments are requested to ensure submission of a comprehensive inventory/details of all websites, portals, web applications, and associated public-facing digital services being operated by the respective departments, attached departments, autonomous bodies, subordinate offices, and affiliated entities under their administrative control, along with current hosting details/information including hosting location and service provider particulars. The requisite information may kindly be furnished to the office of Punjab CERT at the following address for record, review, and compliance coordination purposes:

Director Punjab CERT  
Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB)  
Arfa Software Technology Park  
346-B, Ferozpur Road, Lahore.

- 7) It is further informed that Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), being the designated Government Cloud Service Provider (CSP), possesses secure hosting infrastructure and cybersecurity capabilities aligned with baseline and advanced security controls for hosting Government websites, portals, and digital services, and may be consulted for secure hosting, migration, cybersecurity compliance, and related technical facilitation.

Early compliance and necessary action in this regard is requested.



Haroon Rashid  
Director (Punjab CERT), PITB

CC:

1. PA to Secretary Implementation and Coordination Wing, Punjab
2. PSO to Chairman, PITB.
3. CIO, PITB

Annex-A (Format for Submission of Website Inventory)

(To be submitted by each sub-office)

Sr. No.	Name of Website/Portal/App	Purpose	Hosting Location (City & Country)	Hosting Service Provider	Hosted on Government CSP (Yes/No)	Security Controls Implemented (Yes/No)	Remarks
1							
2							
3							

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Department/Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_