

Subject: - **Cyber Security Advisory – Use of Indian Origin Products & Services by Pakistani Industry, Fintech and Banking Sector (Advisory No. 48)**

Globally, Artificial Intelligence (AI) products and services are being used by various industries including financial and banking sectors to accelerate the enterprise growth. It has been learnt that fintech sector of Pakistan including few banks are engaged with Indian origin companies who are offering them IT products, Cyber Security and AI solutions, etc.

2. It is pertinent to mention that use of Indian security products/solutions pose a constant, concealed and force multiplier threat to own critical information infrastructure (CII), including banking sector on account of following risks:

- a. Possibility of presence of backdoor or malware for collection of logs/data traffic analysis and personal identifiable information (PII).
- b. Direct Indian ingress in Pakistan's CII through technical means/access control with passive monitoring capability.

3. Above in view, all Federal/Provincial Ministries including sectoral regulators are requested to sensitize their affiliated setups/organizations/licensees, on the risks involved in use of Indian origin products/solutions. Furthermore, all users are advised to refrain from collaboration, installation and use of Indian origin AI/ICT products. Instead Pakistan Software House Association (**P@SHA**) be consulted to find Pakistani technical companies for suitable economical alternatives.