

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Tuesday partially suspended mobile phone services in Karachi to ensure security during Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi's visit to the port city.

In a statement, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) said the cellular services will remain suspended on specific routes in Karachi from 3pm (April 23) till 8am (April 24) on the directions of the Ministry of Interior.

"This decision is being taken to ensure the security of the dignitary's visit to Karachi," the authority added.

Besides the mobile phone services, the authorities also closed the main arteries of the city to the public and declared a public holiday in the city to avoid inconvenience to the public.

The authorities made a comprehensive security plan involving a substantial deployment of law enforcement personnel across the city.

A total of 3,847 police officers and officials have been mobilised to ensure peace and tranquillity and security of the foreign dignitaries during their visit to Karachi, the state-run APP quoted a spokesperson of Karachi Police as saying earlier today.

The spokesperson while sharing the details said that deployment of security personnel across different zones of the city, revealing that 345 officers and employees are stationed in District East, 164 in West, and more than 300 in District South.

Additionally, 1,500 traffic officers and over 300 officers from the Special Branch have also been assigned security duties.

To enhance security measures, snipers have been strategically positioned at sensitive locations throughout the city.

Highlighting the commitment of the Karachi Police to uphold safety standards, the spokesperson emphasized that every possible measure is being taken to fulfil their duties effectively in safeguarding the visiting delegations.

The rigorous security arrangements underscore Karachi's dedication to hosting foreign dignitaries in a safe and secure environment, reflecting the city's ongoing efforts to bolster best relations with foreign dignitaries.