

Bus tickets now on mobiles

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March 23: Maharashtra has become the second transport body in the country to start a ticket booking facility using cellphones.

This facility, which was launched on Tuesday, comes after the successful launch of the Internet ticket reservation facility by the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation.

"The launch of this service is our next step towards increasing customer convenience so that they book their tickets without having to visit a counter. With the launch of this user-friendly and convenient option for

booking tickets, we expect more people to use the MSRTC services," said Mr Deepak Kapoor, vice-chairman and managing director of MSRTC.

The MSRTC is currently running a fleet of around 16,000 buses and daily caters to around 70 lakh passengers and generating a daily revenue of over Rs 9.69 crore.

On January 8, the state transport body started an online ticket booking facility for commuters. Within a month of starting the internet ticketing facility, the MSRTC began a full-



fledged toll-free call centre so that the online ticketing facility could be facilitated.

"After Karnataka, we are the second state in the country to offer this modern convenience," said Mr Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, minister for transport at the launching event.

"We have already received a good response for our online ticket reservation facility. We are now in the process of extending the online ticketing facility to more depots that are currently not covered," said another MSRTC official.