

# VOLLEYBALL GOES IPL WAY

## SIX-TEAM KERALA VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE TO BE LAUNCHED IN FEB 2010



Mammooty (left) at the launch of the Kerala Volleyball League in Kochi

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THE Kerala Volleyball League (KVL), on the lines of the Indian Premier League with franchisees bidding for the best players in the country, will be held at the Kozhikode Indoor Stadium from February 20 to 28 in 2010. The bidding for the nine-day event began on Tuesday with December 12 set as the final day for placing bids. The players will be auctioned on January 9 with six teams to be sanctioned in the name of prominent places in the state.

The regulations state that in a team of 12 players, eight should be from Kerala, which

means franchisees have the opportunity to pick 24 of the best players outside the state. Also, two players in each team need to be aged under 21. "We are in the process of identifying a pool of over 100 players," said the Kerala Volleyball Association (KVA) secretary Nalakath Basheer. The state association has joined hands with the Mumbai based Sports Consult for the successful conduct of the KVL. "The player-selection is expected to be completed by November 20," Basheer added.

For the fans, a total of 18 matches, including two semifinals and the final with the teams playing each other once in a preliminary league, will be on offer.