

The IPL Revolution _ It's now reality

Nawshad Shah



The much anticipated and sometime controversial **Indian Premier League (IPL)** is going to start from **18th April (Friday)**. We have heard of houses being auctioned off, as also cars, memorabilia, stocks and shares. But in an innovative and historic scheme, the **Indian Premiere League (IPL)** bought international cricketers at an auction held in Mumbai on February 2008.

The IPL is a professional Twenty20 cricket league created and promoted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (**BCCI**) and backed by the International Cricket Council (**ICC**).

The super popularity of Twenty20 cricket may have created a monster. Imagine, in **44 days** from **18 April to 1st June**, **59 Twenty20 matches** will be played around India and Millions of US Dollars will be generated by the 8 franchise teams. Bollywood also made its presence felt with two of its leading stars bagging the ownership of their respective teams – **Shah Rukh Khan and Juhi Chawla's Red Chillies Entertainment** buying out **Kolkata** for **US\$75 million**, while **Preity Zinta** bought the **Mohali team** for **\$76 million**. The Mumbai franchise owned by Mukesh Ambani's **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)** was the most expensive franchise with **US\$ 112 million**.

The IPL works on a franchise system based on the American style of hiring players and transfer. The auction went on to fetch total **US\$ 723 million** by the eight (8) franchises to own 8 teams.

Eight (8) teams will play **14 home and away games** each (**56 matches**) before the semifinals and final, in Mumbai on **June 01, 2008**.

Sony TV is reported to have secured the IPL TV right for **\$1 billion**. The **Ten Network (Channel 10)** secured the rights to broadcast the IPL matches **LIVE** in **Australia**.

Here are some of the key players of each team:

MUMBAI: Tendulkar, Jayasuriya, Harbhajan Singh, Shaun Pollock, Robin Uthappa, Lasith Malinga, Dilhara Fernando, Ashle Prince, Luke Ronchi, M Thornely, Loots Bosman .

KOLKATA: Ganguly, Ponting, Shoaib Akhtar, Brendon McCullum, Chris Gayle, Ajit Agarkar, David Hussey, Ishant Sharma, Murali Kartik, Umar Gul, Tatenda Taibu, Salman Butt .

BANGALORE: Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, Jacques Kallis, Zaheer Khan, Mark Boucher, Cameron White, Wasim Jaffer, Dale Steyn, Bracken, Chanderpaul, Noffke, Misbaul Huq, **Razzak (Bdesh)**

CHENNAI: Dhoni, Muralitharan, Hayden, Jacob Oram, Stephen Fleming, Parthiv Patel, Joginder Sharma, Albie Morkel, Suresh Raina, Ntini, **Michael Hussey**, Balaji, Parthiv Patel.

DELHI: Virender Sehwag, Daniel Vettori, Shoaib Malik, Md Asif, AB de Villiers, Dinesh Karthik, Farveez Maharroof, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Manoj Tiwary, Gautam Gambhir, **Glenn McGrath**.

HYDERABAD: VVS Laxman, Gilchrist, Andrew Symonds, Herschelle Gibbs, Shahid Afridi, Scott Styris, Rohit Sharma, Chamara Silva, RP Singh, **Chaminda Vaas**, Nuwan Zoysa.

MOHALI: Yuvraj Singh, Mahela Jayawardene, Sangakkara, Brett Lee, Sreesanth, Irfan Pathan, Ramesh Powar, Piyush Chawla, **Simon Katich**, Ramnaresh Sarwan, James Hopes .

JAIPUR: Shane Warne, Graeme Smith, Younis Khan, Kamran Akmal, Yusuf Pathan, **Md Kaif**, Munaf Patel, **Justin Langer**, Shane Watson, Sohail Tanvir.

Find attached the **official schedule** and **LIVE TV telecast from Channel 10** in Australia. So fastened your seat belt for many sleepless nights to watch some entertainment cricket or "tamashas" !! and be part of the history.¹

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