

TIMES OF INDIA

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Thiruvananthapuram:

The state tourism department has claimed a 'successful' debut season for the Champions Boat League (CBL), the country's first-ever boat racing event modelled on the IPL format of cricket, which is to end with the 12th race at Ashtamudi Lake in Kollam this weekend.

Having 'professionalised, standardised and commercialised the sport of snake-boating' - as tourism director P Bala Kiran puts it - the department is now hopeful of auctioning off nine participating teams in January 2020. "It was thought to be an impossible event, and we have proved it wrong. Potential franchisees have seen the event and are now convinced about the big future ahead for Kerala's first professional league," he told TOI. After the final race to be held along with the President's Trophy boat race in Kollam on Saturday, the department will make an assessment in consultation with all the stakeholders to fix the base price of the teams.

