

## QUEEN'S BATON RELAY 2010 DELHI

29 October 2009 - 3 October 2010

340 days around the Commonwealth

*The Queen's Baton Relay is one of the great traditions of the Commonwealth Games. It symbolises the gathering of people from across the Commonwealth at a four yearly festival of sport and culture. Queen's Baton Relays have been the curtain raiser to every games since Cardiff, Wales, in 1958.*

*The Queen's Baton 2010 Delhi contains Her Majesty's 'message to the athletes', and will be carried from Buckingham Palace, London, throughout all nations of the Commonwealth to the Opening Ceremony of the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi.*

Uniting the Commonwealth, the Queen's Baton Relay 2010 Delhi will be a rousing celebration that showcases India to the world. The relay begins when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II entrusts the baton containing Her message to the first of many thousands of Batonbearers.

The Queen's Baton 2010 Delhi will leave Buckingham Palace on 29 October 2009, and arrive at the Opening Ceremony of the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi after visiting the other nations of the Commonwealth and travelling throughout India. The Queen's Baton Relay 2010 Delhi will take the baton to the home of one third of the world's population, enabling many millions of people across the globe to join in the celebrations for the Games.

It will take the Queen's Baton 2010 Delhi 240 days to complete the epic journey to all 70 nations of the Commonwealth. During this time the baton will cover a distance of more than 170,000 kilometres. Whilst on its 100 day national tour, the baton will visit all the capital cities in India's 28 states and seven union territories and many other cities along the way, covering in excess of 20,000 kilometres. This will make the national sector of the Queen's Baton Relay 2010 Delhi twice as long as the Manchester and Melbourne relays, which each lasted for 50 days. By the end of its marathon journey, the Queen's Baton 2010 Delhi will have passed through many thousands of hands on many different modes of transport across land, air and sea.

On arrival at the opening ceremony, the Queen's Baton 2010 Delhi will have travelled in excess of 190,000 kilometres over a 340 day period; this will make the Queen's Baton Relay 2010 Delhi one of the longest relays in the history of the Commonwealth Games.

The relay will conclude in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at the Opening Ceremony of the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi on 3 October 2010. During the ceremony, the final Batonbearer will hand the baton back to Her Majesty, or Her representative, where the Queen's message that was placed in the baton some 11 months ago, is then removed and read aloud, officially opening the Games.

