CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE

With less than two months to go before the start of the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi, our preparations have moved into high gear. Various projects and programmes are picking up steam, and it is gratifying to see the enthusiasm amongst members of the Organising Committee Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi (OC CWG Delhi 2010).

Recently, the OC CWG Delhi 2010 also revealed the names of our brand ambassadors. The Games will be the biggest sporting event our nation has ever hosted, and the choice of ambassadors reflects our quest for excellence. These athletes are some of the brightest young stars on the field, and have already made India proud thanks to their achievements.

The past few weeks have also seen our Green Games initiative achieve new heights. With new partners on board, this programme is sure to meet its desired objective of enabling a lasting change in Delhi 2010 spectators’ habits.

This issue of Commonwealth Times 2010 will also update you on the progress made in our preparations. We’d like to thank all of our partners for their invaluable assistance that will go a long way in making the Games a success. We’d also love to hear from you. You can mail us your comments at communications@cwgdelhi2010.org.

Happy Reading!

Mr. Suresh Kalmadi
Chairman, Organising Committee Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi

NEWS UPDATE

Hon’ble President Receives the First Invitation to Delhi 2010

O
n 26 July, Organising Committee Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi (OC CWG Delhi 2010) Chairman Mr. Suresh Kalmadi, M.P., handed over the first invitation for the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi to the Hon’ble President of India, Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Apart from Mrs. Patil, other heads-of-state and senior officials from across the 71 members of the Commonwealth Games Federation will receive these special cards that showcase the best of Indian culture and craftsmanship.

While designing the invitation to India’s biggest-ever multi-sport event, the OC CWG Delhi 2010 decided that a traditional-style scroll would best depict the nation’s rich and varied heritage. The scroll, a visual and artistic delight made of silk, features intricate details, and uses fine zardozi embroidery along its sides. The use of this ancient and famous craft gives the invitation a special touch of elegance. As found in traditional designs, the scroll can also be rolled up using wooden sticks at both ends. The invitation also features modern touches such as full-colour logos for the Games, and is packed in a tamper-proof and courier-friendly box that complements the overall Indian theme.
Six Shining Stars Are Delhi 2010 Brand Ambassadors

Another of the OC CWG Delhi 2010’s significant milestones is its recent association with ace sportspersons who have come aboard as Brand Ambassadors for the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi. Olympic and world 10-metre air rifle champion Abhinav Bindra, world number two badminton player Saina Nehwal, David Dixon award winner for being the ‘Best Athlete’ at the 2006 Commonwealth Games, Samaresh Jung, Olympic bronze medallist boxer Vijender Kumar, Olympic bronze medallist wrestler Sushil Kumar and four-time world boxing champion M.C. Mary Kom are the Brand Ambassadors for Delhi 2010.

“These champions have done India proud with their achievements and will serve as remarkable Brand Ambassadors for the Games,” said OC CWG Delhi 2010 Chairman Mr. Suresh Kalmadi. “Their passion, personality, and presence as well as their amazing pursuit of excellence truly reflects our vision.”

“We are poised at the cusp of staging the biggest sporting celebrations ever in India and I am confident that this squad of six Brand Ambassadors will find universal appeal across the nation. I believe that they will lend their charisma to ensure that the Games are a huge success for India and the nation. I believe that they will lend their charisma to ensure that the Games are a huge success for India and the nation. I believe that they will lend their charisma to ensure that the Games are a huge success for India and the nation.”

About the Brand Ambassadors

Twenty-seven-year-old Abhinav Bindra had won top honours in the 10-metre air rifle event at the ISSF World Shooting Championship in Zagreb in 2006 and the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008. He has also won two gold, a silver and a bronze medals at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester and Melbourne. His haul of five gold, a silver and a bronze in 2006 saw him win the David Dixon Award for the best athlete of the Games.

Apart from an Olympic Games middleweight boxing bronze medal in Beijing, 24-year-old Vijender Singh has won a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne as well as bronze medals in the Asian Games at Doha in 2006 and the World Amateur Boxing Championship at Milan in 2009.

Sushil Kumar, 27, won a bronze medal at the Olympic Games in 2008 and is a two-time bronze medal winner at the Asian Wrestling Championships - in 2003 and 2008. He has also won three gold medals at the Commonwealth Wrestling Championship in 2003, 2005 and 2007.

Besides winning the World Championship crowns in 2002, 2005, 2006 and 2008, Mary Kom, 27, has claimed the Asian Championship prize as many as three times. Having come back to boxing as a mother of twins, she is an inspiration for the country and widely respected as one of the finest women champions in India.

Commonwealth Security Experts Assured of Preparations

At the International Security Liaison Conference held from 28 to 29 July 2010 in New Delhi’s Ashok Hotel, Mr. Suresh Kalmadi said that visiting security experts could assure athletes and sportspersons in their respective countries that “All is well in Delhi”.

The interactive two-day conference, organised by the International Security Liaison Group and the OC CWG Delhi 2010, saw Delhi Police make a detailed presentation on the security arrangements to experts from member nations and territories of the Commonwealth Games Federation.

Mr. Kalmadi said, “Security is a critical component for the success of the Games. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and Delhi Police will ensure that the Games are held in a safe and secure environment not only at all competition and non-competition venues, but throughout the length and breadth of the city of Delhi. “Delhi Police is planning a very strong security ring around the city and has placed several layers of checks and filters – with the help of the latest technology and trained and experienced security personnel – at the Games Village and at all the venues,” he added.

The Chairman informed the delegates that a Games Operation Centre headed by the Chief Executive Officer would function at the OC CWG Delhi 2010 Headquarters round-the-clock to solve any issues and that he would himself chair the Games Time Managing Committee to look into any critical issues that could arise.

Jawaharlal Nehru Sports Complex Inaugurated

The venue for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Athletics, Weightlifting and Lawn Bowls competitions for Delhi 2010 was inaugurated on 27 July 2010 by Mrs. Dikshit and Dr. Gill. Also present on the occasion were Mr. Kalmadi, Sports Authority of India Director-General Sayan Chatterjee, several sportspersons and officials of the Sports Ministry. The facility is earthquake resistant, can seat 60,000 spectators and has competition, training and warm-up areas.

Dr. S. P. Mukherjee Aquatics Complex Inaugurated

The inauguration of the S. P. Mukherjee Aquatics Complex was held on 18 July 2010. The state-of-the-art facility is India’s largest covered aquatics stadium and comprises an Olympic-sized swimming and diving pool and a six-lane warm-up pool. The Chief Minister of Delhi, Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, Sports Minister Dr. M.S. Gill and Mr. Kalmadi were present at the inauguration. “The inauguration of this complex is a dream come true, especially as it is world class,” Mrs. Dikshit commented at the function.
British Delegation Visits India

On the sidelines of the British Prime Minister’s visit to India, a delegation led by Britain’s Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport Mr. Jeremy Hunt, visited the OC CWG Delhi 2010 Headquarters. Mr. Hunt complimented the organisers of Delhi 2010 on their eye for detail and promised to persuade all top athletes of his country to compete in Delhi 2010.

“We are impressed by the attention being paid to detail. Sixty-seven days is not a long time, which makes this attention to detail more impressive,” said Mr. Hunt, who led a delegation that included Lord Sebastian Coe, head of the 2012 London Olympic Games organising body. “We have in our delegation three of the best British athletes in Lord Sebastian Coe, Sir Steve Redgrave and Dame Kelly Holmes, which goes to prove that we are serious about stronger sporting ties with India, ties that go beyond cricket,” the minister said during his visit to the OC CWG 2010 Delhi Headquarters.

“We wish the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi every success, we are going back with a strong message and we will encourage British athletes to come to the Commonwealth Games. The 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games were a big stepping stone for us for the 2012 Olympics. We hope that the 2010 Games in New Delhi will be a similar step for you,” Mr. Hunt added.

Green Concert Promotes Low Carbon Practices

The OC CWG Delhi 2010, in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Ministry for Environment and Forests, organised a ‘Green Concert’ on 31 July 2010 at Science City, Kolkata to promote awareness on low carbon practices during the Games.

The concert was a curtain-raiser to the Queen’s Baton 2010 Delhi’s arrival in Kolkata. The highlight of the concert was an energetic performance by rock band Euphoria, who unveiled their new song ‘Earth’ – specially written and composed for the green concert. Lead singer Palash Sen also motivated and encouraged the audience to adopt a green lifestyle by bringing about behavioural changes in their day-to-day activities. The crowd present at the concert pledged to “Go Green” and joined the low carbon campaign by taking an oath and signing on the pledge wall.

The concert was attended by Kolkata’s well known personalities from various fields – Baichung Bhutia, (football icon), Harsh Neotia (M.D., Ambuja Reality), Sanjay Buddhia (M.D. Patton, Chairman, National Committee on Trade), Niranjan Khatri (G.M., ITC-Welcome Environ Initiatives), Pali Sachdeva (fashion designer), Subhaprasanna (artist) and Raghvendra Singh (Principal Secretary, Department of Youth and Sports services) who also shared their contributions towards greener environment. They took an oath to work even more aggressively towards reducing their carbon footprints thus motivating and inspiring the youth and the audience.
**TEST EVENTS**

**Asian All Star Athletics**
*(29 to 30 July 2010)*

“I have to clock around 4:08 for the qualification. I have put in a lot of hard work and if I continue to perform like this I will reach my peak during the Commonwealth and Asian Games. I am in my best shape now and I can win a medal in the Commonwealth Games.”

- Sinimol Paulose, Indian middle distance runner

**Federation Cup Aquatics Championship**
*(27 to 29 July 2010)*

“The top swimmers from Australia, Great Britain, Canada and South Africa have committed themselves to coming to Delhi. Swimming is the only sport where top athletes have not withdrawn and hence, it will be a major attraction with high international focus. The swimming facility has to be the very best.”

- Sam Ramsamy, Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA) Bureau member

**Cycling Invitational Meet**
*(23 to 25 July 2010)*

“New national records have been made in sprint. We have three out of four people in the semi-finals. We can do much better further.”

- Chayn Chaudhary, Indian Chief Coach

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**DELHI 2010 PROMOTIONS**

**Shera Visits Delhi Schools**

Members of the OC CWG Delhi 2010, along with the affable mascot Shera, have been upbeat with school activities to promote the Games amongst the youth. This month, the promotions team along with Mr. Mohan Phadke (Advisor, Ticketing FA) visited Air Force Bal Bharti School, Kalka Public School and Loreto Convent School.

The agenda of these events included interactive presentations about India’s biggest sporting event, where information regarding various venues and ticketing details was shared; formal Question-and-Answer sessions, where the team addressed various queries about the Games; screening of official Delhi 2010 videos and interaction with the Games mascot, Shera.
Queen’s Baton 2010 Delhi Visits the Seven Sister States

Over the course of its 20,000 kilometres-long national sector, the Queen’s Baton 2010 Delhi reached Sikkim. One of the smallest Indian states, Sikkim is never short on enthusiasm. Nestled in the lofty Himalayas, where the world’s second highest peak – Kangchenjunga – is situated, Sikkim is one of the most scenic Indian states.

Here, the baton visited the Nathu La pass at the Indo-China border. Located at an elevation of 14,200 feet, the pass is a major offshoot of the ancient silk route. The baton then moved to Darjeeling via Gangtok.

The baton’s next destination was Guwahati in Assam. Braving inclement weather, residents of Guwahati turned out in large numbers to receive the baton. A host of dignitaries including the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Assam, Mr. Tarun Gogoi, attended the function.

In Meghalaya, where the world’s wettest places – Cherrapunjee and Mawsynram – are situated, the baton received an enthusiastic reception. To mark the arrival of the baton in Meghalaya, the Society for Promotion of Indigenous Knowledge and Practice planted saplings near the Umiam Lake.

In the capital of Nagaland, Kohima, the baton visited the Naga Heritage Village, Kisama and the World War II Museum and State Museum.

Later, the baton visited Tuophema. On the way, there was a tree plantation drive undertaken at Capt. Kenguruse Memorial and then the baton moved towards Tuophema where it was received at the village gate by the Tuophema Village Council. The convoy then moved to Dawho where a cultural extravaganza was organised.

CITIZEN SPEAK

A Glance at Our Online Community

Facebook Fans: 35,000+
Twitter Fans: 2,500+

Online Community Roots for Delhi 2010

“I am training for the Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi and extremely excited!”
-Stephanie Rice (Olympic Champion and World Record Holder) via Twitter

“Believe in your nation, believe in your country, and believe in your dreams. Jai Hind!”
-Mayank Taneja (via Facebook)

“Thanks for posting the lovely QBR pictures, gives a lot of motivation and inspiration. Delhi 2010 Rocks!”
-Kaveri Garg (via Facebook)

“We all are volunteers, some officially and others at their hearts, because they are ‘Our Games’. All of us are the pillars of this great nation and we will surely have the best Games ever.”
-Kamal Mishra (via Facebook)

“I would request all citizens of Delhi to join hands and make sure that all the guests who visit our beautiful city are treated according to our philosophy ‘ATTITHI DEVO BHAV’.”
-Sudha Mahajan (via Facebook)

Speedy Contest on Facebook

Our social media channels do not merely disseminate information about Delhi 2010, but also seek to engage our members with interesting contests and giveaways.

Keeping that in mind, on 29 July 2010, we created a ‘Speedy Contest’ to distribute 15 tickets for the Asian All Star Athletics Competition at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. The contest saw the participation of 250+ users within a span of two hours and generated goodwill for the Games.
The Games have been in the news lately and for all the right reasons. In the past fortnight, many prominent national dailies have touched upon various aspects of the Games.

**Game for Commonwealth**

Economic Times, 19 July 2010

For 12 days in October, a corporate executive, a bureaucrat, a lawyer and a travel agent will take leave from work to be in the thick of a mega sporting spectacle. And it’s the love for sports that’s driving them.

**England, New Zealand Announce Delhi 2010 Squash Squads**

Tribune, 18 July 2010

World number one squash player Nick Matthew will be seen in action at the Commonwealth Games this year after he was included in the English squad for the mega event. Matthew and women’s world number two Jenny Duncalf will head England’s challenge.

From New Zealand, Shelley Kitchen, former world number six, will team up with Jaclyn Hawkes in the women’s doubles and Campbell Grayson in the mixed event. New Zealand’s top two men’s players, Grayson and Martin Knight, will be partners in the men’s doubles event.

**Foreign Delegates Satisfied with Games Security**

Tribune, 30 July 2010

A delegation of security officials from 31 countries participating in Delhi 2010 examined security arrangements at various Games-related sites.

**Pool With Largest Roof in India Opened**

Mail Today, 19 July 2010

The swimming pool complex, which was first constructed in 1982 for the Asian games, has the largest cohestrand—a new technology for cable-supported bridges—elliptical-shaped aluminium roof said to be the first of its kind in the world. The stadium is also equipped with green building features such as thermal insulation in roof and walls, use of solar water heating, proper selection of low energy glass for the acade to cut off heat, dual knob flushing cisterns and ozone-friendly refrigerants.

**Green Games**

Business Standard, 29 July 2010

The OC CWG Delhi 2010 is going to organise several Green Games concerts in the run-up to the Games. The concerts will be held in Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and New Delhi. This initiative is being supported by the United Nations Development Programme, the Environment Ministry and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency.