



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 Relay for the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010, Delhi was flagged off from the Buckingham Palace on 29th October 2009 and will end 340 days later at the Opening Ceremony of the Games at Delhi on 3rd October 2010. During this period the baton will cover a distance of over 190,000 kilometres through the other 70 nations of the Commonwealth. The Baton will also visit all the capital cities in India's 28 states and seven union territories, and many other cities along the way. A drive to plant trees along the route of Queen's Baton Relay of 20,000 km in India is being undertaken. The Queen's Baton Relay 2010 Delhi will be one of the longest relays in the history of the Commonwealth Games.

For each Commonwealth Games, the host country designs a unique baton. The Queen's Baton 2010 Delhi is a fusion of handcrafted elements interplayed with a precision engineered body, and ornamented with an intricate hand layered soil pattern. The shape and design of the baton is created using a triangular section of aluminium which has been twisted in the form of a helix and then coated with a diverse range of coloured soils collected from all corners of India. The very essence of India with its diversity and unrelenting endeavour towards a harmonious and progressive nation has shaped the inspiration of the baton. The Queen's Baton 2010 Delhi is a true Indian masterpiece. Culminating at the pinnacle of the Queen's Baton 2010 Delhi is a precious jewellery box containing the Queen's 'message to the athletes'. The Queen's message has been symbolically engraved onto a miniature 18 carat gold leaf, representative of the ancient Indian 'pathras'. The gold leaf inscription reflects the essence and the richness of culture in ancient India. Modern laser technology known as micro calligraphy has been used for the first time to reproduce the Queen's message in this style.

One can track the progress of the baton relay at <http://www.cwgdelhi2010.org/batonrelay2010/>

The other technology features in the Queen's Baton for the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010, Delhi include:

- The ability to capture images and sound as it travels
- The latest global positioning system technology through which the exact location of the baton can be tracked on the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi website;
- Embedded light emitting diodes which will change into the colours of a country's flag whilst in that country; and
- Text messaging capability so that anyone anywhere can send their messages to the Baton bearers throughout the Queen's Baton Relay 2010 Delhi.