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**SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF TAMILNADU, CHENNAI 84**

**QUEEN'S BATON RELAY**

**PRESS RELEASE**

India will be hosting the first ever XIX Commonwealth Games in Delhi in October 2010. There will be over 10,000 Athletes and Officials from 71 CGAs participating in the 12 days of sporting competitions from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The events are scheduled to be conducted in 17 Sports in 11 world class sporting venues. The Games symbolize India's "Coming of Age" as a global economic power, showcasing Indian capability and celebrating India's rich and distinctive culture.

To create awareness and to ensure public participation of the citizens of Commonwealth Countries, a Baton Relay is being organized which was launched at Buckingham Palace (London) by Her Majesty the Queen on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009 on to its International Journey through the 70 Commonwealth Nations / Countries, and will travel across the participating Common Wealth Countries more than 1,90,000 Km in 340 days.

In India it travels to all Capital cities of the 28 States and seven Union Territories. The event will involve Indians along with Sports Persons, Officials and celebrities.

In Tamil Nadu, the QBR passes through Chennai, Thanjavur, Rameswaram (Ramanathapuram District) Madurai, Kanniyakumari, and Ooty between 19<sup>th</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.

The Queens Baton Relay comprise of Baton bearers, outstanding sports persons, Police personnel and a Convoy of 29 Vehicles.

The journey of the Queen's Baton Relay in Tamil Nadu is enclosed along with a detailed fact sheet about the Queen's Baton Relay.

In Chennai, the Queen's Baton Relay will commence from the Island Grounds to the SDAT Indoor Stadium, Chennai on 20.08.2010 at 5.00 P.M.

The Queen's Baton will be handed to the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu by the Hon'ble Sports and Environment Minister.

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The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu will hand over the Baton to the Eminent Sports Persons, in the presence of the Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu and Dr.B.Sivanthi Adityan, President, Tamil Nadu Olympic Association.

The Queen's Baton will be carried by 50 Eminent Sports Persons in relay from Island grounds to the SDAT Indoor Stadium.

At the SDAT Indoor Stadium the Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Debendranath Sarangi, I.A.S., will receive the Queen's Baton.

There will be an evening Cultural Celebrations at the Museum Theatre, Egmore, Chennai at 7.00 P.M. During the occasion a Special Postal Cover will be released by the Chief Post Master General. The first cover will be received by the Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu to commemorate the Queen's Baton Relay.

The Queen's Baton Relay will proceed to other parts of Tamil Nadu, as in the enclosed Schedule.

I am to request you to cover the proceedings of the QBR, at the starting point i.e. Island grounds to SDAT Indoor Stadium on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2010 at 5.00 P.M. and also its journey in Tamil Nadu, till 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.

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