

# AROUND THE WORLD IN 240 DAYS

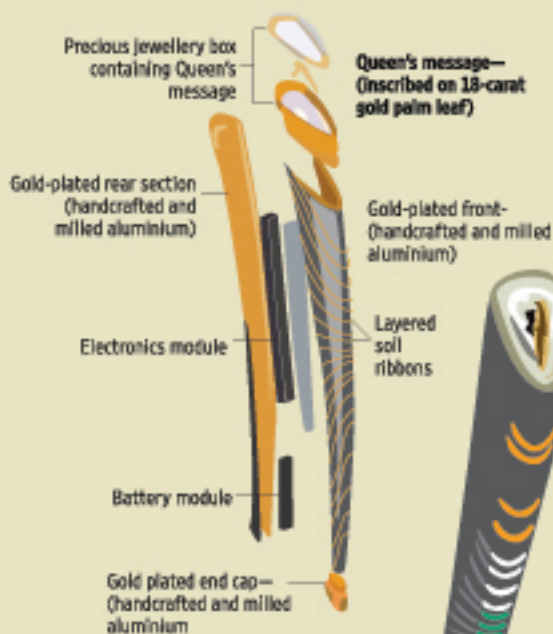


1,70,000 km. Six continents. 71 countries. The 2010 Queen's Baton Relay (the Commonwealth Games' equivalent of the Olympic torch) kicks off at Buckingham Palace in London on Thursday. Queen Elizabeth II will pass the specially designed baton (extreme right) to President Pratibha Patil, who will then pass it to Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chairman Suresh Kalmadi who, in turn, will pass it on to shooter Abhinav Bindra, who will start the rally. The 2010 edition of the relay, a tradition that dates back to the 1958 games at Cardiff, has the longest and most elaborate relay route in Commonwealth Games history. It will pass through the remotest places in the commonwealth—the island of St Helena off the west coast of Africa, accessible only by boat—and use every means of transport available—bicycles, hot-air balloons, steam trains, even elephants. It will travel to all the Commonwealth nations before entering India through the Wagah border on 25 June. It will then start a 100-day sojourn through the country, through every state and state capital, before entering Delhi on the eve of the Games.



**Presidential start:** Queen Elizabeth II with President Pratibha Patil in London on Wednesday. The President will kick off the relay. The Indian baton bearers contingent includes boxer Vijender Singh, former hockey captain Dilip Tirkey, tennis player Sania Mirza, former athlete Milkha Singh and Prakash Padukone.

## THE BATON'S SECRETS



### Dimensions

Height	664 mm
Width-top	86 mm
Width-base	34 mm
Weight	1,900 g

### Technology

**Capturing images and sound:** The baton has the ability to capture images and sound as it travels through all 71 nations of the Commonwealth. Images and sound from the baton will be available on the Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi website.

**GPS system:** The latest global positioning system technology housed within the baton will allow its location to be viewed on the Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi website.

**LED lighting:** Light-emitting diodes embedded within the baton will transition into the colours of a country's flag, while the baton is in that country.

**Text messaging:** Messages of congratulations and encouragement can be sent to the baton. Selected messages will be available for viewing on the Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi website.

