



Air Marshal Denzil Keelor PVSM, KC, AVSM, VrC
Founder



Air Marshal Keelor is the **founder** of Special Olympics Bharat, having been the Chairman for 14 years. He is highly respected and revered for his experience, result-oriented performance and professional leadership. He is a man of integrity and character and is forthright in his convictions.

Under his leadership the program expanded from 25000 Athletes in 2001 to 1.4 million Athletes across all the states and Union Territories of India covering nearly all the districts

Air Marshal Denzil Keelor born on 7th December 1933 in Lucknow, studied in St. George's College, Mussouree and La Martiniere College, Lucknow before joining the Indian Air Force in 1953 as a fighter pilot having served as the Inspector General before retiring in 1991. He has had a brilliant career during which he distinguished himself as an exceptional Fighter pilot and leader and held key Operational and Staff assignments. He earned recognition for gallantry and distinguished service of an exceptional order, receiving four Presidential awards from four consecutive Presidents of India, Param Vishist Seva Medal (PVSM), Kirti Chakra (KC), Ati Vishist Seva Medal (AVSM) and Vir Chakra (VrC) and four commendations from of the Chief of Air Staff, thus making him the highest decorated officer in the country.

In 2004, he received an award from Special Olympics International for his leadership and efforts to reach out to over 450,000 Special Children. In October 2007, at the World Summer Games in Shanghai, a special ceremony was held where he received the **"Special Spirit of China Award of Excellence"**, along with world leaders Nelson Mandela, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Vanessa Williams, Quincy Jones, Nadia Comaneci and other distinguished personalities, in recognition of his outstanding commitment and unique contribution to the Special Olympics Movement.

In the words of **Air Marshal Denzil Keelor (Retd.), PVSM, KC, AVSM, VrC**

"We have maintained our policy and record of 'sustained, quality growth. We are now an ISO 9001 certified by TUV Germany and committed to customer satisfactions and constant improvement. We are no longer an event but a movement and are now encompassing not only



sports but building communities through promoting awareness and a series of new initiatives in which we are engaging the youth and the society outside the parameters of sports. This is not only transformative for athletes and their families but goes beyond, reaching out to the society at large. We continue to extend our program to the rural areas keeping the morale of our Program high!"

