

**Chandresh Patel**

Chandresh organized the first Auroville Marathon in 2008 along with his childhood friends Anand and Sampat. All three grew up in the Sri Aurobindo Ashram. This was to commemorate 40 years of the founding of Auroville. Today, the Auroville Marathon is an annual event bringing 3000 runners from across India to Auroville in the month of February for an exciting celebration of joyful running for participating enthusiasts and families. Auroville community hosts this annual event and upto 250 residents volunteer for this event. The run is along the forest trails and amongst the communities of Auroville. Chandresh has run many marathons in USA and India. He has offered training in Auroville to runners for participating in Auroville marathons. He is an avid runner.

Chandresh founded SaraCon, an entrepreneur center in Auroville in 2006 for fostering new social ventures, events, seminars and entrepreneurship. Auroville Marathon is hosted from SaraCon campus.

Chandresh was born and grew up in Chennai and then moved to Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry. After his engineering studies, he worked in Pondicherry for Pragati Computers and Auro Electronics in its early startup days as an electronics design engineer. Subsequently he was based in Silicon Valley prior to relocating to Auroville. He has over 25 years of experience in hardware design and technology start-ups in Silicon Valley. He holds a Masters in computer science from Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, USA and a degree in electrical engineering from SAICE, Pondicherry.