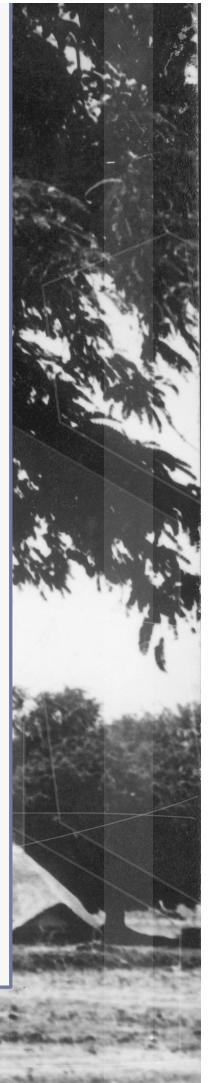




Landmarks on the history of Auroville



Founders of Auroville

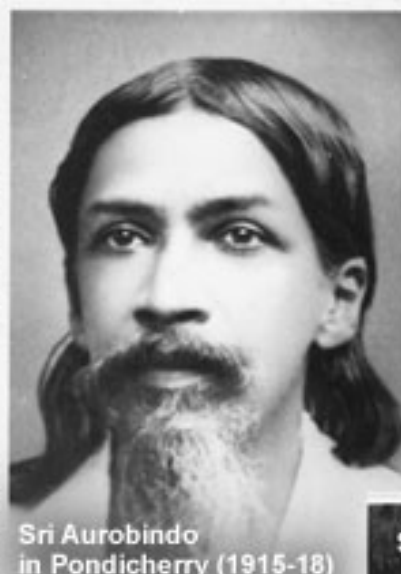
- Sri Aurobindo 1872 - 1950
artisan of India's independence, poet, visionary writer /
philosopher and spiritual master
- Mira Alfassa, the « Mother » 1878 – 1973
his spiritual partner and co-leader of Pondicherry
Ashram



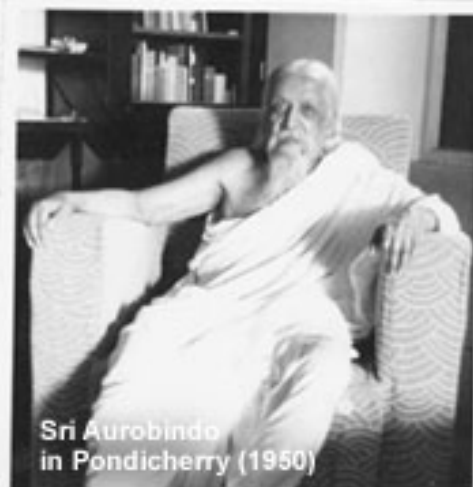
With his wife Mrinalini Devi, Nainital (1901)



With his students, Baroda College (1906)



Sri Aurobindo in Pondicherry (1915-18)



Sri Aurobindo in Pondicherry (1950)



ridge



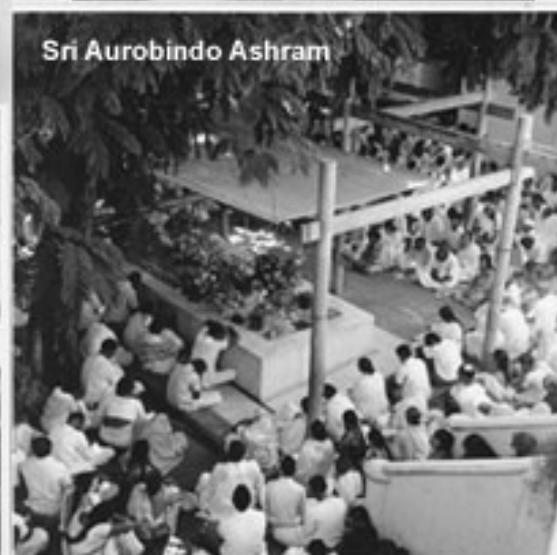
In Amravati (1908)



Sri Aurobindo in Pondicherry (1915-18)



Sri Aurobindo's room in the Ashram



Sri Aurobindo Ashram



Genesis of the idea of Auroville

- Prominent role of the Mother after 1950
- An “ideal society” to work on the evolution of humanity
- Ashram school becomes International centre of Education in 1954.
- 1965: First purchase of lands with the intention to create a town







Creation of Auroville

- 28 February 1968: Inauguration of Auroville, under The Mother's guidance
- October 1969 French caravan, Aspiration
- Pioneering times: first settlements in Aspiration - Aspiration residents visit the Mother every week







Two huge tasks are undertaken

- 1) Construction of Matrimandir (Roger Anger – Piero)
21st February 1970 foundation of Matrimandir
 - 2) Environmental work & reforestation in the barren land
- 17 November 1973 The Mother leaves her body :
Auroville is « orphan” at the age of 5 years.













Slow move towards autonomy

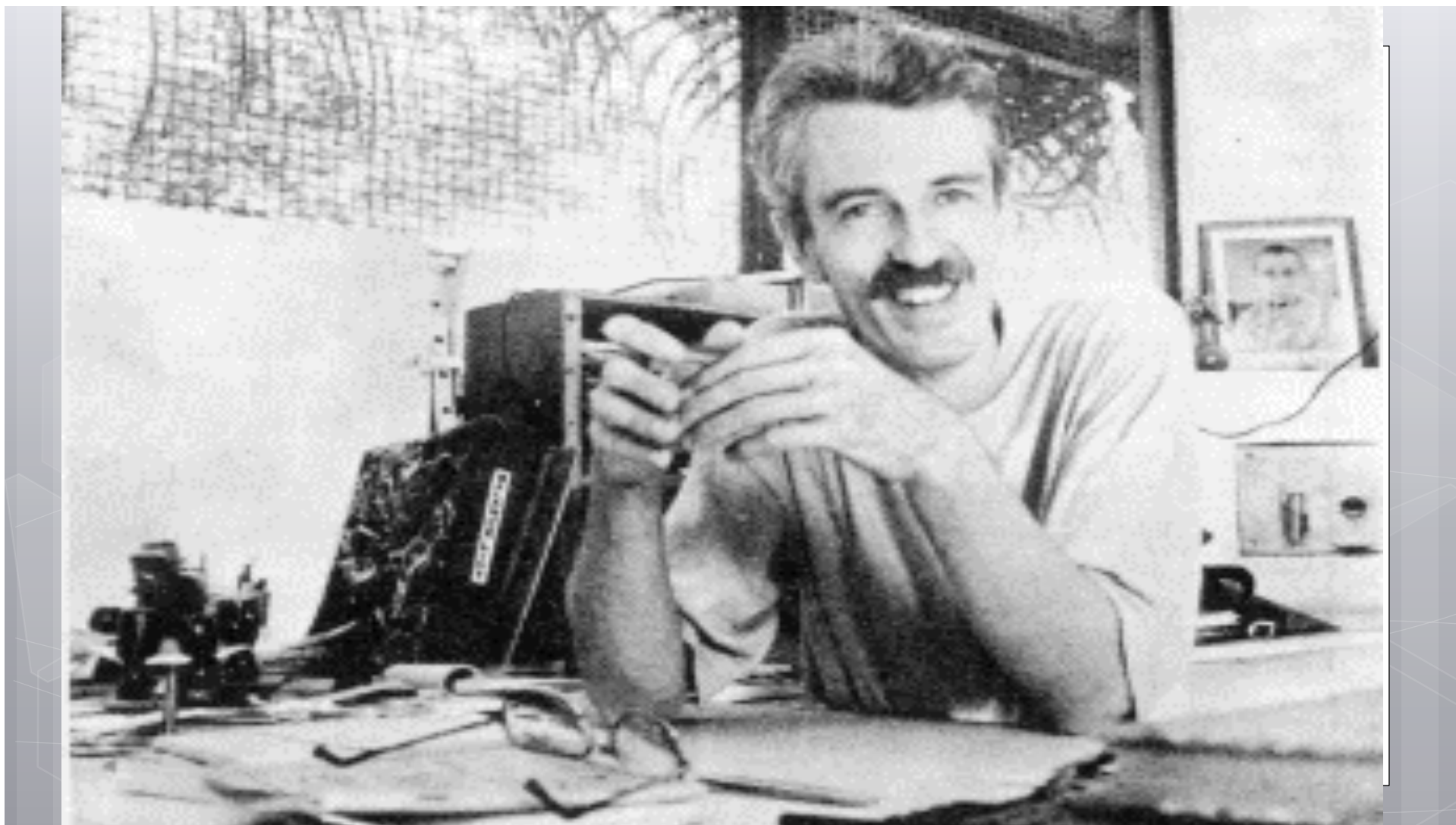
- ◉ Increasing difficulties of relations with SAS
- ◉ Creation of Pour Tous Fund
- ◉ Conciliation attempts between need for autonomy and obedience to Ashram trustees

Rebellions and Fights

- The SAS pressure on one Aurovilian's visa recommendation generates a resistance.
- April 1976: Incident with Navajata's hut story...
7 Aurovilians put in jail for a week
- In spite of these battles, Auroville community:
continues planting & building MM

Indians leaders' protection

- Big impact on the GOI, pressures on the SAS, physical & juridical struggles...
- Indira Ghandi sends a special envoy : Kireet Joshi
- 1980: First Take over by GOI after 2 years trial
- SAS to the Supreme Court: Auroville is not a religion
- Sept 1988: the **Auroville Foundation Act** is voted unanimously by the Parliament of India



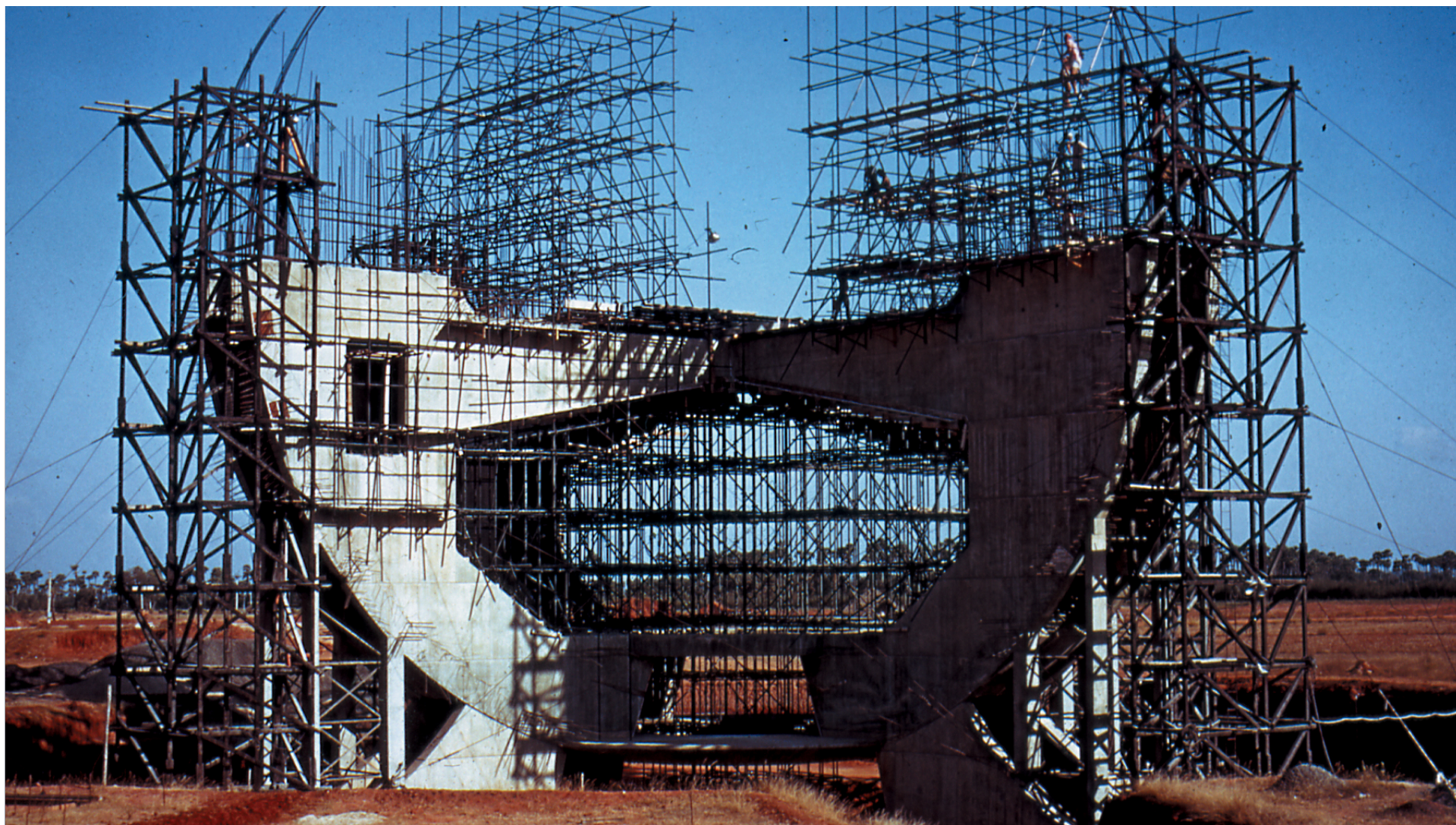


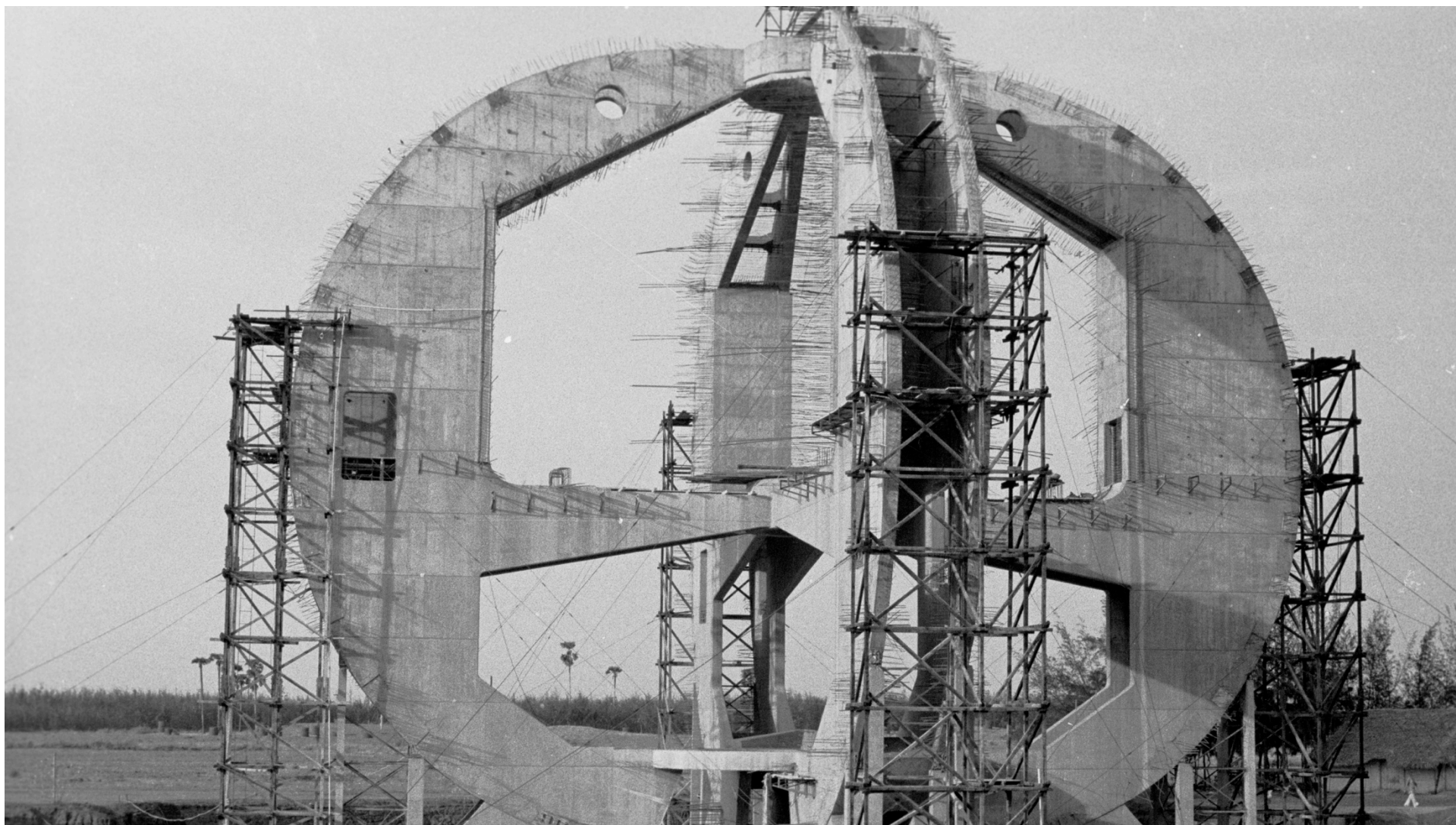
90's: A legal basis for Auroville

- The Auroville Foundation Act gives a legal structure to Auroville
- AV becomes more stable, creates many activities, and learns a progressive autonomy
- 1991: first Governing Board & Working Committee nominated

Developing as a city

- Matrimandir construction continues
- Urban Master Plan
- Activities develop: crafts, agriculture, forestry, small industries; renewable energies...
- Growth in complexity of Auroville







And now?

- ◉ An experimental town **in the making**
- ◉ Collective governance is experimented
- ◉ Cooperation with bio-region
- ◉ Slow growing economy
- ◉ Many challenges

Towards 50th anniversary

- Challenges: in land acquisition, water management, urban planning, population growth, housing, economy
- Preparing 2018: many projects in preparation