

# 'Rubber Man of India' turns 100

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Mumbai

The doyen of Indian rubber industry, K M Philip, turned 100 on May 2. Philip has received wide acclaim as a man behind the founding and creditable growth of MRF into India's leading tyre manufacturer and, above all, as the World President of YMCA.

Speaking on the occasion, Philip said, "I have been fortunate to witness the dramatic growth of the India rubber industry in my lifetime. From a situation where there were a few multinational firms, the start of the Indian manufacturing sector was beset with



**GOING STRONG: K M Philip**

difficulties - no raw material, no technology, and little capital. From a little more than a few sheds, the Indian rubber industry today produces all varieties of rubber goods, using the most sophisticated technologies."

All India Rubber Industry

Association (AIRIA) was co-founded by Philip in 1945 as an organisation to lead the development of Indian rubber industry. Today, the rubber industry is worth more than Rs 50,000 crore.

"Collaboration between rubber planters and industry is a critical need of the hour. Rubber industry has a great future in India. The country has an abundant pool of scientists and engineers and should take advantage of the same for development of rubber industry", added Philip.

Sheela Thomas, Chairman Rubber Board of India said Philip's life is an inspiration to all those associated with the rubber industry in India.