

## QUICKLY

**Odd-even: notification issued**

New Delhi, April 11

The Delhi government today issued a notification on the fortnight-long odd-even car-rationing scheme that comes into force on April 15. In the notification, the city government said violation of odd-even rules will attract a fine of ₹2,000. The Arvind Kejriwal government has decided to exempt women and cars carrying school children in uniform, in the second round of the road-rationing plan. Other exemptions include VIP and CNG cars, cases of medical emergency and cars carrying disabled persons. Transport Minister Gopal Rai said that Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) have geared up to tackle any extra rush during the period. ■■

**Kolkata reels under heat wave**

Kolkata, April 11

The metropolis and large parts of South Bengal are reeling under heat-wave conditions with day temperature soaring to 45.1 degrees Celsius in Bankura, the highest in the country's plains today, with the Met Department forecasting no respite in the next few days. People braved the sweltering heat to cast their votes since early morning in Bankura district in the second part of polling for the first phase of the State Assembly elections. In Kolkata, the day temperature stood at 40.5 degrees, five degrees above normal, while the lowest temperature was 28.3 degrees, three notches higher than average. ■■

# 'Inefficient ports, outdated policies, systems adding to costs'

Bulk commodities exim body calls for modernisation of ports

## OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 11

With India slated to become a major importer of liquid bulk commodities such as biofuels (ethanol and biodiesel), the All India Liquid Bulk Importers and Exporters Association (AILBIEA) has called for modernisation of ports and removal of antiquated policies and systems.

Jayant Lapsia, President, AILBIEA, said high transaction cost due to inadequate and inefficient infrastructure, delays and hassles due to antiquated procedures are the major hurdles that are blocking the country from attaining its full growth potential despite progress on other front.

**Connectivity woes**

Connectivity is still the soft un-

derbelly of the port sector. Efficient infrastructure, combined with quality and expeditious clearance procedures, will help reduce costs and sharpen the competitive edge, he said, addressing the members at a recent event to confer lifetime achievement award on Nadir B Godrej, Managing Director, Godrej Industries.

The association members handle 180-200 million tonne of liquid bulk a year, generating revenue of over ₹6.5 lakh crore. The association called for removal of operational constraints, stamp duty on transfer of shipping documents, rationalisation and systematisation of customs and excise procedure besides complete overhaul of infrastructure.

If the government's Make in India and Ease of doing business



Efficient infrastructure, combined with quality and expeditious clearance procedures, will help reduce costs'

have to succeed, it is imperative for the Centre and State governments to modify outdated policies and procedures. Octroi levy, sales tax, stamp duty on import-export of cargo, removal of anti-

quated procedures and systems are some of the stumbling blocks, he said.

India is set to become a major importer of a wide variety of liquid bulk commodities such as bio-

fuels in the near future. Changes in infrastructure, along with change in mindset of process owners such as customs and government officials, are equally important, Lapsia added.