



# CIABC urges Nitish Kumar to permit liquor trade in Bihar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC), has urged Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to allow liquor trade in the State in a “controlled and responsible manner”.

The letter written by Confederations Director General Vinod Giri also urged the CM to allow opening of liquor shops in urban areas (municipal bodies) besides permitting on-line sales/ home deliveries like many other states are doing. It was also requested the State Government to allow sale of liquor products only above a price point to

ensure only those who have means can buy it, Giri said while stating that the government should allow state-based alcohol producers to freely produce and export from the State.

The Bihar Government had on April 5, 2016 banned the manufacture, trade, storage, transportation, sale, consumption of liquor, including Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL), and made it a punishable offence for those violating the Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act 2016 which was amended in 2018. The confederation-whose members include most major Indian companies which manufacture and market their product range in India and abroad- has written a letter to

the CM urging him to permit liquor trade in the state.

“As a responsible Industry Association, we understand and concur with your objective of saving the poor from unwarranted social and economic effects of alcoholism. “Taking note of Bihar Governments stated goals of saving states poor from ill-effects of alcoholism, and at the same time getting necessary tax revenues so vitally needed to fight coronavirus spread,” Giri said.

He came out with a set of recommendations mentioned above for the State Government that mainly incorporated the demand to open liquor trade “in a controlled and responsible manner”.