



Insurance Broking Services Pvt. Ltd.



NEWS Letter

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Maharashtra may make insurance must for travelers

1. With lessons learnt from the rain -ravaged Uttarakhand where government struggled to locate pilgrims of the state, Maharashtra is considering a proposal to make it mandatory for people travelling out of state to get their travel plans registered and secure travel insurance.
2. The state encountered difficulties in ascertaining the exact number of people from the state visiting Uttarakhand and their location.
3. The need of the hour is to put in place a mechanism wherein citizens travelling out of state should inform local authorities about their travel plans.
4. Similarly, travel insurance should also be made compulsory.
5. In times of disaster like this, the kith and kin of the deceased and missing persons suffer the most and government is not able to help them.

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IRDA's draft norms for insurers to hedge interest rate risks

1. Irda proposed to allow insurers to hedge their interest rate risks with long term financial derivative instruments including forward rate agreements and interest rate swaps.
2. The insurers, as per the draft guidelines on 'fixed income derivatives' issued by the Insurance (IRDA), will also be allowed to hedge their long term interest rate risks through exchange traded interest rate futures.
3. As per the existing guidelines, the insurance companies can hedge their risks through derivative instruments with a maturity period of up to one year only.

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Insurance companies ease settlement norms for Uttarakhand

1. Life insurance companies are relaxing the norms to ensure faster and easier claim settlement for the victims of Uttarakhand floods.
2. According to the National Disaster Management Authority, so far 580 people are known to have lost their lives and up to 3,700 are missing after the flash-floods and landslides in Uttarakhand.
3. The company will process claims on receipt of a duly completed claim form, attested death certificate from local Municipal Corporation, hospital or police, and identity and residence proof of nominee or beneficiary.

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[IRDA approves 20 percent hike in Health Insurance Premium](#)

1. New India Assurance Company Ltd. announced the 20% hike in health insurance premium effective June 2013.
2. Actual rate climb will differ from division to division.
3. They have divided whole India on the basis of different zones and medical cost.
4. Based on the zones opted by the insured premium will be charged.
5. In case of renewal premium, rate increase will not be applicable immediately as the customers need to be served with three months' notice period.
6. He also revealed the plan to reduce operational cost, which at present is 120% by forming their own Third Party Administrator (TPA) to handle the health insurance business and association of hospitals.

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[General insurers, reinsurer to set up TPA by September](#)

1. Four general insurers include: United India Insurance, National Insurance, New India Assurance and Oriental Insurance and a national reinsurer are planning to form a joint venture to set up a third-party administrator (TPA) claims processing unit, which is expected to start operations by September.
2. The four general insurers will hold 23.75% stake each and General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) will hold 5%.

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[Government plans Energy Insurance Pool for Iranian crude refiners](#)

1. The government is planning an Indian Energy Insurance Pool (IEIP) to provide insurance cover to domestic refineries that process crude oil imported from Iran.
2. Keeping in view the strategic geo-political relations and the need to have an uninterrupted import of crude oil from Iran, Government is exploring the possibility of setting of an IEIP as one of the options.
3. The possibility of setting up of the IEIP is being discussed with all stake holders and a decision will be firmed up soon.

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IRDA plans to set up depository for paperless policies

1. IRDA is mulling over a proposal to set up a depository that will allow customers to hold policies in paperless form much like investors holding equity shares in demat accounts.
2. Insurance customers would have the option to switch over to paperless form and would not be mandatory as in the case of stock market.
3. Capital-intensive insurance sector required foreign investments.
4. The IRDA member said the Insurance Bill is expected to get approved in Parliament and thereby the FDI limit would increase from the present level of 26 per cent to 49 per cent.
5. The insurance sector needs a lot of capital and FDI is one source.
6. He also said insurers should take steps to stop misselling of products by their financial advisors.

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E-Meditek unveils 1st pre-paid card for healthcare needs

1. E-Meditek Global in association with Ratnakar Bank and VISA launched the country's first pre-paid card for healthcare needs that can be used by customers for medical payment and related services. E-Meditek Global is the holding company of E-Meditek TPA that facilitates payment mechanism for healthcare industry.
2. Medicash Plus will offer automated discounts in the range of 7-40 per cent at various healthcare service providers such as private doctor's clinic, specialists, diagnostics centers, chemists, dentists, hospitals, gyms, spas, beauty salons, restaurants and lifestyle centres.

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58% smokers in the country without health insurance

1. Despite being exposed to perils of heavy smoking, a majority of smokers (58%) in India do not have any form of health insurance, a survey conducted by private non-life insurer ICICI Lombard has found.
2. Further, a city-wise break-up shows that the percentage of smokers with a health cover is significantly lower in Delhi (34%) and Bangalore (28%).
3. This, despite 85% of the respondent smokers across the country admitting to smoking more than once daily.
4. Mumbai (59%) and Kolkata (45%) fare much better in this regard.
5. According to the survey findings, health insurance is primarily purchased by self in Delhi (68%) and Mumbai (50%), whereas most Bangalorean respondents (52%) seemed to rely on their parents or family for the purpose.

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