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ING Vysya Life Insurance Will Now Be Known As Exide Life Insurance

ING Vysya Life Insurance Company has announced that it has changed its name to Exide Life Insurance Company Limited with immediate effect after the insurer received approval from the regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) and Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

“Exide Industries Limited has been our major shareholder for 8 years and acquired 100% ownership of the company over a year back”, said Exide Life Insurance Managing Director and CEO Mr. Kshitij Jain.



The company will continue to honour its commitments and obligations under the insurance policy(s) issued to customers in the name of ING Vysya Life Insurance Company Limited, Mr. Jain said.

The name and brand identity will have no impact on the operations of the company. Members of the board of directors and senior management remain the same.

Govt May Cancel Order Of Public Sector Banks Acting As Insurance Brokers

Muffling its stance over public sector banks to act as insurance broker, the government is likely to cancel its order directing them to act as insurance brokers. The finance ministry is considering allowing banks to adopt either the broking model or going with the existing model of insurance / corporate agent of a single insurance firm.



According to the sources, the recommendations of the working group are being discussed and once they are finalised, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) may also consider amendments to the regulations. This issue has already been transferred to Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), and will be discussed upon during the next meeting.

The issue has already been transferred to Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), and will be taken up during the next meeting, another finance ministry official said.

FSDC has representation from all the sectoral regulators.

IRDA could relax the guidelines which state that while acting as brokers banks will have to cap business from their own group companies at 25% for both life and non-life business, an official from finance ministry said. Currently, banks are allowed to sell products of one company from life, non-life and health insurance businesses. If banks act as brokers, they can be able to sell products of multiple insurers.

In December last year, the finance ministry had asked state-run banks to become insurance brokers instead of remaining corporate agents of an insurer. This was in line with the Budget announcement that paved the way for banks to act as insurance brokers and offer products of more than one insurance company.

Indian Insurance Firms To Spend Rs 117 Bn On IT In 2014: Gartner

In 2014, the Indian insurers are expected to spend Rs 117 billion on IT products and services, up 5% from last year, according to the Gartner. Gartner Inc, earlier known as Gartner Group, is an American information technology research and advisory agency providing technology related insight.

As per the report, the expected expenditures are including expenses on internal IT (including personnel), hardware, software, external IT services and telecommunications.



It is expected that the Indian insurance firms will spend about Rs 4.1 billion on mobile devices in 2014, up 35% from 2013.

"Gartner research shows that most Indian insurance CIOs view mobile enablement of applications and services as a very important component of their strategies to improve sales and channel effectiveness," said Gartner Research Director Mr. Derry Finkeldey.

"This is especially important as insurers compete to reach agents and customers distributed across the country and outside of saturated urban markets," he added.

Consumer Forum Directed Oriental Insurance To Pay For Transfer Of Dead Body From US To India

A district consumer forum has recently ordered state owned insurer the Oriental Insurance Company Limited to pay over Rs 2 lac to one Mr. Arvind Thakkar spent to bring back the dead body of his wife, Rashmi from the US.



As per the complainant Mr. Thakkar, he had taken the insurance policy from Oriental Insurance Company for a period starting from March 22, 2009 to September 17, 2009. As per the terms and conditions, the company would cover the transfer charges of the dead body to India if the insured died while abroad; if the last rites were performed abroad, the cost of that too would be covered.

On March 31, 2009, Rashmi died at her son's house in the US when he and his wife were away at work. Although, her son informed the local office of the insurance company about the death after he returned home, the insurer did not respond. And

the son spent money from his pocket to transfer the body to India.

Then Mr. Thakkar applied to the insurer seeking compensation; but it rejected the claim citing that since Rashmi had died of cardiac arrest and that ailment was not covered under the policy. And also, Mr. Thakkar had not revealed at the time of taking policy that his wife Rashmi had been suffering from heart ailment.

Mr. Thakkar, then moved the consumer forum seeking compensation of over Rs 2 lac. The forum, headed by Mr. S.S. Vyavahare, ordered the company to pay the complainant the cost of transferring the body plus 10 % interest from the date of filing the complaint till disbursement of the amount. In addition, the forum also asked insurer to pay a compensation of Rs 10,000 towards the mental agony it caused to the complainant, as well as Rs 2,500 towards litigation cost.

Chola Ms Insurance Targets Rs 2.5k Cr Premium In Fy 2014-15

Private sector insurer Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Limited will concentrate on increasing its corporate and health insurance business to get a gross written premium (GWP) of Rs.2,500 crore and an operating profit of Rs. 225 crore in fiscal year 2014-15, said a company official.

"We will now start looking at increasing our corporate or commercial lines of business (fire, transit, burglary and others) and also the health insurance. Currently only 10 % of our business is from commercial lines," said Chola MS Managing Director Mr. S.S. Gopalarathnam.



The insurer has registered a 15 % growth in its gross written premium at Rs. 1,855 crore in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2014, against Rs. 1,620 crore in the previous year.

The profit before taxation has risen by 15 per cent to Rs. 101 crore. The net profit stood at Rs. 70 crore in 2013-14 against Rs. 60 crore.

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