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**Reliance Nippon Life Insurance launches new offer**



Reliance Nippon Life Insurance, part of Reliance Capital, launched its new offer - 'Increasing Money Back Plan'.

This is a non-linked, non-participating Life Insurance plan that provides periodic, guaranteed and incremental money back payouts along with a life cover for the entire policy term. It is designed to help policyholders get a guaranteed income at regular interval and insured financial security for the family.

The unique plan offers guaranteed increasing money back benefits to policyholders every three years from the commencement of the policy. The percentage payout increases from 10 percent to 20% to 30% to 50% and 100% of the base sum assured for the consecutive three years till end of the policy. It is available for customers in the age group 15-55 years with a minimum base sum assured of Rs. 1,00,000 and minimum premium of Rs 18,000. The policy offers Regular Pay & Limited Premium payment options that allow payment for 7 years or full policy term depending on the policy holder's preference. However, the policy term is fixed for 15 years in both cases. In addition, the plan also allows up to 80% of Surrender Value as loan in case of an emergency ensuring liquidity.

In the unfortunate event of death of a policy holder during the policy term, the nominee would receive full death benefit, irrespective of survival benefits payout already received. The death benefit amount payable will be highest of either 10 times of annualized premium, guaranteed sum assured on maturity or 105% of total premiums paid.

**IRCTC to launch passenger insurance, unreserved ticketing**

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation is launching a host of initiatives, including passenger insurance and unreserved ticketing.

IRCTC will start passenger insurance soon and have already issued letter of award along with shortlisting three companies.

The insurance would be less than Rs 2 per trip for a sum insured of Rs 10 lakh said Arun Kumar Manocha, Chairman and Managing director of IRCTC.

The public-sector undertaking of the Railways, which handles catering, tourism and Internet ticketing activities, also partnered with the State Bank of India to enable digital payments through the SBI's mobile wallet Buddy.

The company is also working together to explore other areas of railway ticketing activities, Mr. Manocha said. He also added that they are planning to enter unreserved ticketing system; it would be available in a few months' time.



## IRDA Fines Bharti AXA General Insurance for Rule Breach



Insurance regulator IRDA has imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on Bharti AXA General Insurance for violating health insurance guidelines.

The company added a condition of proportionate deduction in proportion to room under the head 'incremental charges condition' in cases of group health policies, which was in violation of health insurance guidelines, IRDA said.

"Under the said condition, the insurer kept the provision to reduce amount payable for various charges in case the insured opts for higher room rent category. However, it was noted that the said condition is not part of policy wordings filed with the Authority of Group Health Insurance Policy," it said in its order.

"Looking at the seriousness of the violation of IRDA (Protection of Policyholders' Interest), the Authority imposes a penalty of Rs 5 lakh," IRDA said.

It further asked the company to ensure no claim is settled based on product features and conditions that is not filed and approved under file-and-use procedure complying with Health Insurance regulations.

## Domestic helps in Saudi to be covered under insurance scheme

The Saudi government is considering setting up an insurance scheme for foreign origin domestic workers employed in Saudi homes. The scheme will come as breather to thousands of workers including Malayalees. The scheme seeks to cover accidents in the midst of work, abrupt termination, medical emergencies and other illnesses.



The scheme also seeks to cover violence inflicted by the employers, exile and dismembering or termination due to unsatisfactory work. Adel Al Issa, in-charge of the project added that the talks are on with the insurance agencies and the final terms and compensation amounts will be narrowed down upon very soon. The first step is to conduct a census on the number of people employed as domestic workers, a task in itself because a good number of such persons are employed in the sector on other visas.

The administration is also looking for good working samples of similar nature under other governments around the world. The insurance will be a great relief for the foreigners working in this sector in Saudi because of the very expensive nature of medical care in the country. Hospitalization and other emergencies can drain out finances. The new provision may also lead to removal of the middlemen who extract huge amounts in the employment process.

## Quick News

### Private insurers undercut PSUs by 90% to bag IRCTC cover

Private non-life insurers have undercut state-owned companies by almost 90% to get contract for providing insurance cover to train travelers. Private insurers ICICI Lombard, Shriram General Insurance and Royal Sundaram Alliance have agreed to provide personal accident cover for a journey at less than Rs 2. The IRCTC will soon offer insurance to customers at the rate of Rs 10 lakh for a journey.

### SBI Life Insurance to decide on public issue early next fiscal

SBI Life Insurance will take a formal call on going in for an IPO early next fiscal, its MD & CEO Arijit Basu has said. This life insurer, which is not looking to raise any capital this fiscal, may require some capital funds only after two years to fund its business growth. Basu was in the capital for inauguration of SBI Life's new regional office in Delhi. He noted that it may take a year or so for SBI Life to hit the markets as and when a decision to go public is taken next fiscal. Meanwhile, Basu confirmed that SBI and BNP Paribas Cardiff have concluded talks on new shareholders agreement, which would pave the way for the foreign joint venture partner to raise its stake to 36% from the existing 26%.

### LIC-Axis Bank tie-up for bank to sell insurance products

State-run LIC and private sector Axis Bank on Friday announced their tie-up to sell LIC products, creating one of the largest bancassurance partnerships in India. In the initial phase, Axis Bank branches in Bengal, Bengaluru and Panchkula in Haryana will start selling LIC products. Over the past five years, the life insurance business at Axis Bank has grown at a CAGR of over 25%. The partnership with LIC would enable the bank to further expand its existing bouquet of offerings.

## Consumer Forum tells insurance company to pay Rs 1.54 lakh to resident



The Amritsar District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum has directed an insurance company to pay Rs 1,54,548 to the widow of an insured person along with Rs 2,000 as litigation expenses.

Earlier, Radhika Soni, widow of Vikas Soni, a resident of Katra Dullo, had filed a complaint against National Insurance Company stating that her husband was insured with the opposite for a sum of Rs 5 lakh.

She said her husband fell ill and was admitted at a hospital in Delhi. She stated that the insurance company paid Rs 50,000 as pre-authorisation but later refused to pay the remaining claim of Rs 1,54,548. The opposite party in its reply stated that they had already paid Rs 50,000, 50 per cent of the sum

insured for any one illness as the sum insured for any one disease was Rs 1 lakh only.

It stated that the claim was declined on the plea that as per the discharge summary, the disease caused was cirrhosis and alcoholic hepatitis alcoholic liver disease. As per the terms and conditions of the policy, the expenses related to the treatment of a disease caused by alcoholic addiction were not payable.

The forum stated that the contention that it being a Parivar Mediclaim Policy and sum insured was Rs 1 lakh only, did not find favour from the fact that the sum insured under the policy was Rs 5 lakh. It stated that as per terms of the policy, the beneficiary under the insurance cover was entitled to 50 per cent of the sum insured for one illness. In such a situation, the sum payable would be Rs 2,50,000 whereas the claim of the complainants in the whole came to Rs 2,04,548 out of which an amount of Rs 50,000 had already been paid by the opposite party, stated the forum. It stated that it appeared that insurance companies showed green pastures to the insured persons at the time of selling the insurance policy and when it came to the payment of the insurance claim, they invented all sort of excuses to deny the claim.

## Small tea growers seek insurance cover in Assam



Small tea growers in the state have sought the inclusion of the Centre's insurance scheme for plantation crops in the 100-day action program charted out by the state government. They said the move would not only send a positive signal to the small growers here but also provide them relief from the vagaries of climatic variations and price fluctuations.

Chairman of the advisory committee for small tea growers, Bidyananda Barkakoty, said recently they had a meeting with finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and industries minister Chandra Mohan Patowary on the Centre's Revenue Insurance Scheme for Plantation Crops (RISPC).

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