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I. WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NIA

1. NIA successfully hosted the 26th Annual C D Deshmukh Memorial Seminar.

The flagship event of the National Insurance Academy (NIA), the 26th Annual C.D. Deshmukh Memorial Seminar, was successfully held on January 21, 2025, at the NIA campus in Pune. The theme of the seminar, "Re-engineering Insurance Skills & Knowledge (R.I.S.K.)," underscored the importance of upskilling and innovation in the insurance industry.

The seminar commenced with a warm welcome by Mr. B.C. Patnaik, Director, NIA, who paid tribute to Sir C.D. Deshmukh for his visionary contributions to the insurance sector. He highlighted the growth of the life insurance industry, noting the sale of 3 crore policies in the financial year 2023-24, generating a premium of ₹8.3 lakh crores. Rural penetration was emphasized, with 1.23 crore policies sold in these areas. The rise of the micro-group insurance segment, covering 17.83 crore lives with an annual premium of ₹10,707 crores, was acknowledged as a key driver of financial inclusion.

Mr. Patnaik also discussed the vast potential in annuities and health insurance and emphasized regulatory reforms and digital adoption as pivotal growth enablers. He concluded by reaffirming NIA's commitment to the sector's progress through education, training, and research.



In his special address, Mr. Nilesh Sathe, Ex-Member (Life), IRDAI, reflected on the contributions of LIC and the dynamic changes in the insurance sector. He emphasized LIC's resilience in a liberalized market and praised leaders like Sir C.D. Deshmukh for their foresight in shaping the financial landscape. He discussed key reforms, including the increase in FDI to 100%, composite licensing, and investment norm revisions. Mr. Sathe highlighted LIC's responsibility in maintaining customer trust and encouraged agents to prioritize value-driven engagements.

The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Siddhartha Mohanty, CEO & MD, LIC of India, and Chairman, NIA Governing Board. He emphasized the need for advanced skills in data analytics, product innovation, and customer service to navigate evolving customer expectations and technological advancements. He highlighted the transformative role of AI and blockchain in streamlining operations and improving transparency. Mr. Mohanty reiterated the importance of "Availability, Accessibility, and Affordability" in insurance and underscored the role of institutions like NIA and the Insurance Institute of India in bridging the industry's skill gap. He concluded with a call for innovation and collaboration to realize the vision of "Insurance for All" by 2047.





Mr. V. Balagopal, Chair Professor (Life Insurance), NIA, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the speakers, panelists, delegates, press, and staff for their contributions.

The seminar featured three panel discussions. The first panel, "Insurers' Risk-Return Optimization," was moderated by Mr. Amit Roy of PwC and included industry experts such as Mr. Kunj Behari Maheshwari, Mr. Dinesh Pant, Mr. Farid Valani, and Mr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta. The discussion focused on risk management strategies and financial sustainability.



The second panel, "Group Insurance as a Catalyst for Insurance Penetration," was led by Mr. Nilesh Sathe and featured speakers including Mr. R. Doraiswamy, Mr. Mayur Ankolekar, Mr. Subhendu Kumar Bal, and Ms. Preeti Chandrasekhar. The session emphasized the role of group insurance in enhancing financial security and expanding coverage.



The third panel, "Digital Innovation for Optimum Customer Engagement," was moderated by Mr. Debashish Banerjee of Deloitte India and included insights from Mr. Pradeep Pandey, Mr. Sumit Ramani, and Mr. Prasad Krishnamorthy. Discussions revolved around leveraging technology to enhance customer experiences and improve service efficiency.

The seminar concluded with closing remarks from Mr. Sandeep Moghe, Seminar Coordinator, who expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for making the event a successful and insightful learning experience. The 26th Annual C.D. Deshmukh Memorial Seminar reaffirmed NIA's commitment to shaping the future of the insurance industry through knowledge sharing, innovation, and skill development.

Mr. Sandeep Moghe played a crucial role as the seminar coordinator, ensuring seamless execution and effective collaboration among various stakeholders. His meticulous planning and dedication significantly contributed to the event's success.

2. National Insurance Academy (NIA) Students organised insurance rally to promote insurance awareness

The students of the National Insurance Academy (NIA) successfully organized an Insurance Awareness Rally to promote the importance of insurance among the public. The event aimed to educate people about the significance of insurance in financial security and risk management.

The rally was graced by the presence of Mr. V. Balagopal, Chair Professor (Life), Principal Dr. Sanjay Mali, along with esteemed faculty members and staff, who actively participated in the awareness drive. The participants carried informative banners and posters while engaging with the public to highlight various aspects of insurance, including life, health, and general insurance policies.

The initiative successfully conveyed the necessity of insurance in safeguarding individuals and businesses against unforeseen risks. The enthusiasm and dedication of the students, combined with the guidance of faculty members, made the event impactful and engaging.





3. National Insurance Academy (NIA) celebrated the 76th Republic Day

The National Insurance Academy (NIA) celebrated the 76th Republic Day with great enthusiasm on 26th January 2025. The event was graced by the presence of esteemed Director, faculty members, staff, and students, making it a memorable occasion.

The celebration commenced with the hoisting of the national flag by Mr. B.C. Patnaik, Director, NIA. The national anthem was sung with great pride, filling the atmosphere with a sense of unity and patriotism.

On this occasion, Mr. B.C. Patnaik addressed the gathering and delivered an inspiring speech, emphasizing the significance of Republic Day. He highlighted the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the responsibilities of citizens in upholding them. His speech resonated with the audience and instilled a deep sense of national pride.

Mr. V. Balagopal, Chair Professor (Life Insurance), and Mr. Anil Srivastava, Chair Professor (Non-Life Insurance), Principal Dr. Sanjay Mali along with other faculty members and staff, were present to mark the occasion. Their presence added to the solemnity and grandeur of the celebration.

The students of NIA showcased various performances, displaying their enthusiasm and dedication through engaging activities that honored the day's significance.





4. Sky watching activity at NIA

A sky watching activity was conducted on 31st January at the NIA campus by Jyotirvidya Parisamstha, Pune. The experts provided insightful explanations about the stories and scientific correlations of various planets, enriching the understanding of attendees. Both students and faculty members of NIA actively participated, gaining valuable knowledge about celestial bodies and their significance. The event served as a platform for fostering curiosity and appreciation for astronomy among the academic community, enhancing their understanding of the universe and its wonders.



II. REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

1. Circulars

Review of revision in premium rates under health insurance policies for senior citizens
<https://irdai.gov.in/document-detail?documentId=6639156>

2. Regulation:

a. IRDAI (Maintenance of Information by the Regulated Entities and Sharing of Information by the Authority), Regulations 2025

<https://irdai.gov.in/document-detail?documentId=6540652>

b. IRDAI (Regulatory Sandbox) Regulations, 2025

<https://irdai.gov.in/document-detail?documentId=6541188>

c. IRDAI (Meetings)(Amendment) Regulations, 2025

<https://irdai.gov.in/document-detail?documentId=6543031>

d. IRDAI (Re-insurance Advisory Committee) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025

<https://irdai.gov.in/document-detail?documentId=6542424>

e. IRDAI (Insurance Advisory Committee) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025

<https://irdai.gov.in/document-detail?documentId=6541790>

3. Press Release:

Press Release- IRDAI further strengthens the Regulatory framework

<https://irdai.gov.in/document-detail?documentId=6540126>

III. INSURANCE INDUSTRY FLASH FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 2024

For monthly insurance industry data, click on:

1. [Life Insurance](#) (Source: LI Council)
2. [Non-Life Insurance](#) (Source: GI Council)

IV. TOPICAL ARTICLE

PARAMETRIC INSURANCE: THE HOPE OF THE FUTURE



The landscape of climate risks is growing, but strategies to mitigate these impacts and protect vulnerable communities and economies are also rising. Among those stakeholders developing measures, the insurance industry stands uniquely equipped with the tools, expertise and risk management capabilities to lead the response to climate change. With Gen-z evolving into more innovative yet affordable techniques to provide for Insurance coverage aligning with the mission of “Insurance for All” by 2047, parametric insurance has evolved to be a boon for rural workers engaged in primary activities. Agriculture has always been the backbone of our country and with adverse weather conditions damaging the production and causing massive loss to the farmer’s income along with the GDP of the nation, it’s high time to adopt parametric insurance in full force as soon as possible. Insurers are increasingly turning to parametric insurance to fill protection gaps and protect vulnerable communities and economies from climate risks.

Essentially, Parametric insurance provides payouts based on a pre-agreed parameter or trigger, such as rainfall levels, temperature, or wind speed, rather than assessing the actual loss. Unlike traditional indemnity-based insurance, which requires loss assessments and time-consuming claims processes, parametric insurance offers predefined payouts, enabling quick financial relief for policyholders. The main benefit of parametric insurance policies is that they offer faster payouts than traditional insurance based on the nature of the trigger event. Because it is quick to verify if the trigger event passed the threshold specified in the policy, parametric policies can payout quickly. These quick payouts are especially beneficial for the liquidity to successfully recover after a disaster strikes. In addition, parametric insurance is suited for hard-to-model, low-frequency but high-intensity losses as in catastrophic perils, weather-related risks in agriculture or other economic activities, and risks sought to be covered without sufficient history of losses captured as insurance-readable data. Finally, parametric insurance may reduce transaction costs involved in writing and administering insurance policies because there is less need for actual loss

assessment for payment of claims or underwriting rating requirements to determine the premium based on liabilities and extent of risk sharing. In India, currently, the Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA) is the only state entity that has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with SBI General Insurance for the Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS), which will help protect the state's critical infrastructure and reduce economic losses due to disasters. GIC Re and Munich Re are acting as reinsurers for three years.

In a recent report, Munich Re noted that worldwide, natural disasters caused losses of \$320 billion in 2024, compared to \$268 billion in 2023. Of this, around \$140 billion was insured, compared to \$106 billion in 2023. In 2024, India witnessed multiple natural catastrophes, including Cyclone Remal, landslides in Wayanad, Cyclone Fengal and cloudbursts in Himachal Pradesh, among others.

Consider the state of Rajasthan. Known for its arid climate, it heavily dependent on agriculture. Women farmers, often marginalized in decision-making and land ownership, face amplified challenges due to erratic monsoon patterns and prolonged droughts. The "Small Farmers Large Field" initiative, supported by parametric insurance, empowered a collective of 35 landless women farmers. By pooling resources, these women accessed financial tools and agricultural inputs. A parametric insurance product tailored for the group ensured that drought-triggered payouts were distributed equitably. As climate risks become more frequent, intense and prolonged, parametric insurance offers a crucial tool to help mitigate direct and indirect losses.

To conclude, Parametric insurance stands as a vital tool in bridging protection gaps, offering swift financial relief to vulnerable communities facing climate risks. Its ability to provide rapid payouts, reduce transaction costs, and cover hard-to-model risks makes it an essential component of climate resilience strategies. As climate-related disasters intensify, wider adoption of parametric insurance in India can help safeguard livelihoods, particularly in agriculture, and support the mission of "Insurance for All" by 2047.

(By Pallabi Bhattacharyya, Student, PGDM, National Insurance Academy, Pune)

V. INSURANCE NEWS

India will lead G20 insurance growth with 7.3% annual premium surge

India's insurance market is expected to lead the G20 nations in premium growth at an average rate of 7.3% annually between 2025 and 2029. A new India market outlook report published by global reinsurer Swiss Re released in January 2025 says India is emerging as a global economic powerhouse, supported by robust domestic consumption, private investment and progressive reforms.

Read more at:

<https://www.asiainsurancereview.com/News/View-NewsLetter-Article/id/90497/Type/eDaily/India-Will-lead-G20-insurance-growth-with-7-3-annual-premium-surge>

India rolls out the red carpet for foreign players

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) chairman Debashish Panda expressed to *Asia Insurance Review* that the financial ecosystem is at the centre of the growth of the economy, with the insurance sector playing a crucial role by providing risk protection, long-term capital and financial security that underpin economic resilience and sustainable growth.

Read more at:

<https://www.asiainsurancereview.com/Magazine/ReadMagazineArticle/aid/48947/India-rolls-out-the-red-carpet-for-foreign-players>

Health insurance sector is set for 8% annual growth

The global health insurance market was valued at \$2.08t in 2023 and is projected to reach \$3.32t by 2032, with an estimated value of \$2.25t in 2024, according to Market Data Forecast. The market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.12% between 2024 and 2032.

Read more at:

<https://insuranceasia.com/insurance/news/health-insurance-sector-set-8-annual-growth>

A significant surge in female insurance salespersons

There has been a significant surge (62%) in the number of female salesperson (POSPs) in the Indian insurance industry during the financial year 2023-24. This growth highlights the

increasing participation of women in the insurance sector, contributing to greater financial inclusion and diversity in the workforce.

Read more at:

<https://www.asiainsurancereview.com/News/View-NewsLetter-Article/id/90399/Type/eDaily/India-A-significant-surge-in-female-insurance-salespersons>

Health insurance claims: How to ensure fair grievance redressal

The 2024 IRDAI guidelines aim to simplify documentation requirements, ensuring policyholders are not burdened with unnecessary paperwork. These guidelines emphasize transparency, ease of documentation, and policyholder protection, ensuring fair treatment in claim processing..

Read more at:

<https://www.livemint.com/money/personal-finance/health-insurance-claims-irdai-2024-guidelines-gro-grievance-redressal-mechanism-insurance-ombudsman-claim-rejection-11736418480312.html>

Regulatory framework being strengthened

The Indian insurance regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is continuing its exercise of strengthening the country's insurance regulatory architecture and has notified five new regulations / amendments.

Read more at:

<https://www.asiainsurancereview.com/News/View-NewsLetter-Article/id/90472/Type/eDaily/India-Regulatory-framework-being-strengthened>

Insurers to double down on tech, rural expansion for growth in FY25

The Indian insurance industry is set to focus on customer centric technological adoption and expansion into rural areas to drive growth in 2025. These initiatives are planned amid anticipation of policy-level changes, including potential increases in foreign direct investment (FDI), amendments to insurance regulations, and revisions in goods and services tax (GST) rates.

Read more at:

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/insurers-to-double-down-on-technology-rural-expansion-for-growth-in-2025-125010100857_1.html

IRDAI expands scope of regulatory sandbox framework to foster innovation

IRDAI has expanded the scope of regulatory sandbox framework to encourage proposals that foster innovation, improve efficiency and ease of doing business.

The IRDAI (Regulatory Sandbox) Regulations, 2025 is now more of principle-based whereby operational aspects will be issued through a master circular.

Read more at:

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/irdai-expands-scope-of-regulatory-sandbox-framework-to-foster-innovation-125011301026_1.html

The first phase of Bima Sugam likely to be rolled out mid-2025

The first phase of Bima Sugam – an ambitious project of the insurance regulator to create an Amazon-like one-stop digital platform for buying, selling, and servicing insurance policies – is expected to be rolled out in the mid of this year instead of April announced earlier.

Read more at:

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/first-phase-of-bima-sugam-project-likely-to-be-rolled-out-mid-2025-125011200268_1.html

Revamping of crop insurance scheme

The Indian union cabinet has cleared the revamped versions of its two-flagship crop-insurance schemes to mitigate growing climate risks for the Indian farmers. The government has also extended the duration of these two crop insurance schemes - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) - for one more year till 2025-26. A total budget of INR695158m has been allocated for these two schemes.

Read more at:

<https://www.asiainsurancereview.com/News/View-NewsLetter-Article/id/90436/Type/eDaily/India-Revamps-its-crop-insurance-scheme>

IRDAI seeks roadmap for public listing of large life insurance subsidiaries

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has asked parent entities to submit a road map for the potential public listing of their large life insurance subsidiaries. Some of the major parent entities are expected to file detailed plan by January 31st, outlining how they intend to take their insurance subsidiary public.

Read more at:

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/business/irdai-seeks-roadmap-for-public-listing-of-large-life-insurance-subsidiaries-19539989.htm>

Life insurers hold over INR200bn in unclaimed insurance amount

Indian life insurance sector as of 31 March 2024 held unclaimed amounts totalling INR200.62bn (\$2.35bn) according to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). According to IRDAI annual report for 2023-24 unclaimed amounts of life insurers at the beginning of the financial year 2023-24 was INR222.37bn.

Read more at:

<https://www.asiainsurancereview.com/News/View-NewsLetter-Article/id/90415/Type/eDaily/India-Life-insurers-hold-over-INR200bn-in-unclaimed-insurance-amount>

Health Insurance Startup Consint.AI Secures ₹5 Crore in Seed Funding

Consint.AI, a GenAI-driven healthcare insurance fraud and risk management startup raised ₹5,00,00,000 in a seed funding round led by Equaminty ventures and seafund. The capital raised will be deployed to scale operations through expanded sales outreach and accelerate the development of generative AI features suite for health AI platform.

Read more at:

<https://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/insurance/health-insurance-startup-consint-ai-secures-5-crore-in-seed-funding/116993895>

IRDAI caps senior citizens' health premium increase at 10% per annum

Following multiple reports of health insurance companies significantly increasing premiums for senior citizens upon renewal, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) issued a directive that mandates insurers to not revise health insurance premiums for senior citizens by more than 10 per cent annually, with immediate effect.

Read more at:

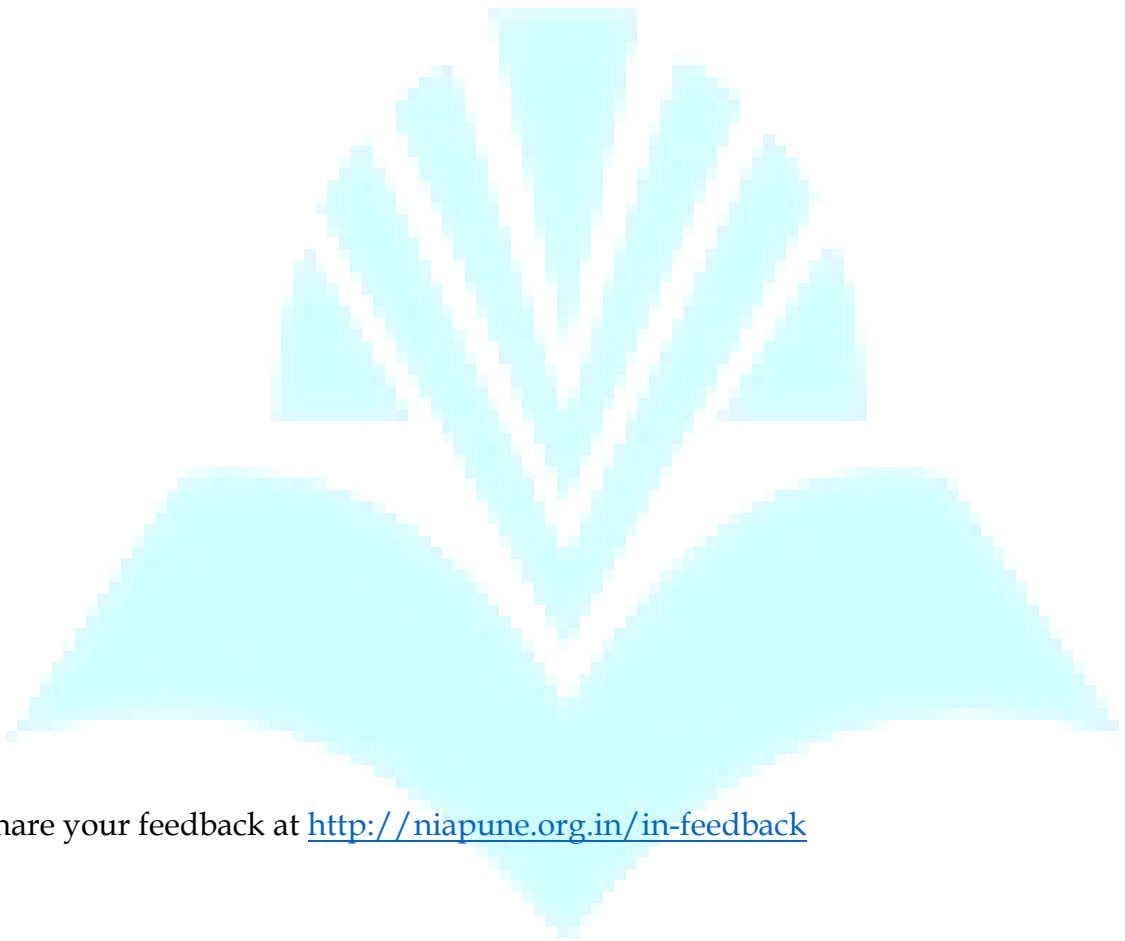
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/irdai-caps-senior-cctizens-s-health-premium-increase-at-10-per-annum-125013001602_1.html

Insurers push for more hedging tools from regulator to boost strategies

Indian insurers have held talks with the regulator to propose the introduction of equity options as a hedging tool to boost their risk-management strategies.

Read more at:

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/insurers-push-for-more-hedging-tools-from-regulator-to-boost-strategies-125012300818_1.html



Please share your feedback at <http://niapune.org.in/in-feedback>