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I. WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NIA

1. NIA's 44th Foundation Day: A Fusion of Art, Awareness, and Insights

NIA celebrated its 44th Foundation Day with enthusiasm and a series of engaging events. The festivities included "Tare Jameen Par" a painting competition showcasing the artistic talents of the students, staff and faculty. Students organized an insurance rally to promote awareness about the importance of insurance, and a blood donation camp exemplified NIA's commitment to community welfare.

Another highlight of the celebration was the inauguration of the NSIGHTS program, welcomed by Dr. Tarun Agarwal, the esteemed Director of the academy. Dr. Sanjay Mali, the Principal, provided context for NSIGHTS, emphasizing the academy's dedication to creating a holistic learning environment.

NSIGHTS, focusing on Nlighten, Nrich, and Ncourage, featured insightful talks by industry leaders. Mr. Rohit Boda, Managing Director at J.B. Boda Group, explored the future of broking in his talk on "Brokerpreneurship." Dr. Sarika Samant, a motivational speaker, delivered a powerful lecture on the "3 D's of Shaping Our Path to Success," offering valuable guidance on personal and professional growth.

The event showcased NIA's commitment to academic excellence, industry relevance, and holistic development, leaving a lasting impact on both students and faculty. The combination of artistic expression, awareness campaigns, and insightful discussions made NIA's 44th Foundation Day a memorable and enriching experience.





2. Innovative Solutions Unveiled: NIA's PGDM Students excel in Bajaj Allianz Hackathon

In a collaborative effort between NIA Pune and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company, a transformative Hackathon was organized exclusively for PGDM students. Senior executives from Bajaj Allianz graced the event, aiming to cultivate creative thinking and devise innovative solutions for various aspects of the insurance sector. The Hackathon served as a catalyst for innovation, with a focus on product innovation, distribution channels, customer service etc. NIA students presented pioneering ideas to Bajaj Allianz's senior executives, encompassing revolutionary product designs and customer-centric services, showcasing strategic thinking and

industry acumen. The executives praised the fresh perspectives, acknowledging the potential impact of these ideas. This event not only strengthened academia-industry collaboration but also highlighted the power of collaborative ideation, fostering a dynamic exchange of knowledge and innovative solutions poised to reshape the future of the insurance industry.



3. Dr. Tarun Agarwal, Director of the National Insurance Academy, served as the Guest of Honour at an AI Symposium.

Dr. Tarun Agarwal, Director of the National Insurance Academy, served as the Guest of Honour at an AI Symposium hosted by AI University in Karjat. Addressing an audience of over 250 undergraduate and postgraduate students, he shared insights on recent advancements in skill development within the field of artificial intelligence. Dr. Agarwal's engaging discourse emphasized the importance of staying abreast of evolving skills in the rapidly changing technological landscape. The symposium provided a valuable platform for students to gain knowledge directly from an industry expert, fostering a collaborative exchange of ideas and promoting awareness of the latest developments in AI skillsets.



4. Research Paper Writing Workshop by Prof Dr W Jean Kwon, Greenberg School of Risk Management (GSRM), St. John University, New York, USA, and Dr Madhu Sudan Acharyya from Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU), London, UK.

National Insurance Academy, Pune, India had organized a 'Research Paper Writing Workshop' for the faculty and research scholars of NIA and other academic institutions on 15th December 2023 at the campus. Two eminent personalities from the academic field. Prof Dr W Jean Kwon, Greenberg School of Risk Management (GSRM), St. John University, New York, USA, and Dr Madhu Sudan Acharyya from Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU), London, UK shared their learnings in the research writing space. Happy to share that 20 research scholars also joined & took advantage of the workshop.

Professor W. Jean Kwon holds the Edwin A.G. Manton Endowed Chair Professorship in International Insurance and Risk Management, the Greenberg School of Risk Management (GSRM), St. John's University, New York.

They both shared their experience as editors of internationally reputed journals and gave an insight into what to expect from research papers. Methods to improve the quality of research papers were discussed, as also ways to increase the acceptance rate and other important aspects that need to be considered while writing a good quality research paper. Guests also suggested upcoming research conferences for good publication platforms.





It was a learning and exciting experience for all PhD scholars and faculties at NIA to improve their skill sets on the research front. This workshop was inaugurated by Dr Tarun Agarwal, Director, NIA and was Coordinated by Dr Deepali Garge, Assistant Professor, NIA, Pune.

5. Inauguration of the Film Society of NIA, Pune

The inauguration of the Film Society at NIA was a momentous occasion, graced by the presence of Mr. Abhinav, a luminary in the cinematic industry, as the chief guest. The event, attended by respected professors and the director, was designed to foster a deep appreciation for cinema and serve as a platform for academic and creative exploration within our institution's film community. The gathering symbolized a commitment to enriching the cultural fabric of NIA, providing a space for students and faculty to engage meaningfully with the world of film. The Film Society's inception promises to be a catalyst for artistic dialogue and collaborative exploration within the campus community.





II. REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

1. Circulars:

- a. A Circular on Insurance claims relating to Cyclone Michaung. Click here for the circular:

<https://irdai.gov.in/web/guest/document-detail?documentId=4238645>

- b. Insurance Ombudsman (Amendment) Rules, 2023. Click here for the circular:

<https://irdai.gov.in/web/guest/document-detail?documentId=4172569>

2. Regulations:

- a. Exposure Draft Product Regulations 2023

<https://irdai.gov.in/web/guest/document-detail?documentId=4243364>

- b. Exposure Draft IRDAI (Registration and Operations of F R B & Lloyd's India) Reg, 2024

<https://irdai.gov.in/web/guest/document-detail?documentId=4244408>

3. Press Release:

- a. Annual Report 2022-23

<https://irdai.gov.in/web/guest/document-detail?documentId=4273788>

III. INSURANCE INDUSTRY FLASH FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 2023

For monthly insurance industry data, click on:

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

IV. TOPICAL ARTICLE

The market trends in the Indian Insurance industry

India is one of the fastest growing insurance markets in the world, and as per Swiss Re forecast it will be the sixth largest by 2032. As per estimate that total insurance premiums will grow on average by 14% annually in nominal local currency terms (9% per annum in real terms) over the next decade. The life insurance premiums will grow by 9% annually (in real terms) by 2032, making India the fifth largest life market globally. COVID-19 has generated increased risk awareness and demand for life insurance. Regulatory developments and digitalisation should also support sector growth.

The insurance industry in India has emerged as a crucial player in bolstering financial stability, especially in times of uncertainty. Over the past two decades, the sector has experienced impressive growth, attributed to increased private sector participation, enhanced distribution capabilities, and improved operational efficiencies.

In the first quarter of FY24, non-life insurers recorded a remarkable 17.9% YoY increase in premium income, reaching Rs. 64,262.8 crore (US\$ 7.72 billion). This surge was primarily driven by robust demand for health and motor insurance policies, underscoring the industry's resilience and adaptability.

The private life insurance sector witnessed substantial growth, with premium income in March 2023 surging by 35% YoY and 20% for FY23. Life insurers collected a noteworthy Rs. 3.71 lakh crore (US\$ 44.85 billion) in first-year premiums during FY23, an 18% increase from the previous fiscal year, as reported by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

Mr. Debashish Panda, Chairman of IRDAI, highlighted that the Indian insurance industry has evolved into a Rs. 59 crore (US\$ 7.1 million) market as of February 2023. This growth has been particularly evident in the non-life insurance sector, which expanded by 16.4% in FY23,

surpassing the previous year's growth rate of 11.1%. Notably, health and motor insurance segments played a pivotal role in driving this expansion.

Among private players, SBI Life, HDFC Life, and ICICI Prudential Life emerged as leaders in premium collection. SBI Life collected Rs. 29,587 crore (US\$ 3.57 billion), while HDFC Life and ICICI Prudential Life received Rs. 28,876 crore (US\$ 3.48 billion) and Rs. 16,921 crore (US\$ 2.04 billion), respectively, in FY23.

LIC, the state-run insurance giant, continued to dominate the market, contributing over 60% to the total new business premium collection. The insurer amassed close to Rs. 2.31 lakh crore (US\$ 27.93 billion) in premiums during FY23, reinforcing its significant market presence.

According to the IRDAI, LIC strengthened its market share by 67.72% as of October, gaining 447 basis points. Private players, as of the end of 2021-22, held a 36.75% share in the life insurance market, while LIC commanded a dominant 63.25%.

In FY23, non-life insurers, comprising general insurers, standalone health insurers, and specialized insurers, achieved a robust 16.4% growth in gross direct premiums. The sector's gross premiums written off reached US\$ 10.95 billion in FY24 and US\$ 31 billion in FY23.

The future of India's insurance industry appears promising, with a projected CAGR of 5.3% between 2019 and 2023. The industry is expected to witness substantial growth, with life insurance premiums estimated to reach Rs. 24 lakh crore (US\$ 317.98 billion) by FY31. The increasing market share of private sector companies, coupled with advancements in insurtech, further underscores the dynamic and evolving nature of India's insurance landscape.

The Indian insurance industry continues to showcase remarkable resilience and growth, driven by both life and non-life segments. The impressive performance in FY23, marked by significant premium collections and market share expansions, emphasizes the sector's adaptability to evolving market dynamics. With a focus on innovation, increased private sector participation, and a robust regulatory framework, the industry is poised for sustained expansion in the coming years. As India emerges as a prominent player in Insurtech within the Asia-Pacific region, the sector's future holds exciting possibilities, reflecting a harmonious blend of tradition and technological advancement in the realm of risk management and financial protection.

Indians.

(By Dr. Ravi Jaiswal, Faculty Member, National Insurance Academy, Pune Source- Secondary)

V. INSURANCE NEWS

IRDAI aims to move towards RBC model, IFRS by 2025

The insurance companies are expected to transition to Risk Based Capital (RBC) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) by 2025. Speaking at an event organised by the National Insurance Academy (NIA), Debasish Panda said, "Dedicated mission board teams are working at full throttle in this direction, and we are expecting that we should be able to transition to the RBC regime as well as converge to the IFRS by 2025.

To read the whole article click on: https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/irdai-aims-to-move-towards-rbc-model-ifrs-by-2025-says-chairman-123121401007_1.html

AM Best has revised its outlook on India's non-life insurance segment to stable

AM Best has revised its outlook on India's non-life insurance segment to stable from negative, owing to robust growth potential, driven by economic development and rising insurance demand, and recent regulatory developments.

On the back of significant GDP growth, India's non-life segment achieved a strong premium increase of 16.4% in fiscal year 2023, compared with a growth rate of 11.1% in the previous fiscal year, according to the General Insurance Council (GIC) of India.

To read the whole article click on:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/am-best-upgrades-outlook-for-indias-non-life-insurance-to-stable/articleshow/105707542.cms>

Life insurance giant to open office in GIFT City to expand overseas business

India's biggest life insurer, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), is planning to open an office in GIFT International Financial Services Centre in Gujarat during the current fiscal year ending 31 March 2024 to further its overseas operations.

To read the whole article click on: <https://www.asiainsurancereview.com/News/View-Newsletter-Article/id/86569/Type/eDaily/India-Life-insurance-giant-to-open-office-in-GIFT-City-to-expand-overseas-business>

Global reinsurance giant announces new IFRS targets for 2024

Swiss Re has announced new IFRS targets, including a net income of more than \$3.6bn for 2024 and a multi-year ROE of more than 14%.

To read the whole article click on: <https://www.asiainsurancereview.com/News/View-Newsletter-Article/id/86566/Type/eDaily/Global-reinsurance-giant-announces-new-IFRS-targets-for-2024>

With \$504 billion reserves, LIC 4th largest insurer

LIC is the fourth largest insurer in the world based on reserves, according to a report by S&P Global Market Intelligence.

According to the report, LIC's reserves stood at \$503.7 billion. Germany's Allianz SE (\$750.2 billion), China Life Insurance Company (\$616.9 billion) and Nippon Life Insurance Company (\$536.8 billion) are the top three insurance companies in the world.

To read the whole article click on: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/with-504-billion-reserves-lic-4th-largest-insurer/articleshow/105764261.cms?from=mdr>

Ayush, allopathy must get equal weightage in insurance

A person who chooses to undergo AYUSH treatment should be entitled to receive an insurance amount towards the expenses incurred by him, as done to a patient who undergoes allopathic treatment.

To read the whole article click on: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/madurai/hc-ayush-allopathy-must-get-equal-weightage-in-insurance/articleshow/105768494.cms>

Digital and green transitions are top priorities for ASEAN insurance leaders

The insurance industry and the business community in ASEAN are at a crossroads of transformation, with ASEAN remaining as a symbol of dynamism and resilience amidst all the headwinds and tailwinds of financial uncertainties. Speakers at the fifth ASEAN Insurance Summit discussed the ways and means to accelerate the transformation and sustainability of the ASEAN Insurance Industry.

To read the whole article click on: <https://www.asiainsurancereview.com/News/View-Newsletter-Article/id/86588/Type/eDaily/Digital-and-green-transitions-are-top-priorities-for-ASEAN-insurance-leaders>

India selected as most appealing investment market by global pension funds

India is the most attractive emerging market among respondents to a survey on investments by public pension and sovereign funds.

To read the whole article click on: <https://www.asiainsurancereview.com/News/View-Newsletter-Article/id/86616/Type/eDaily/India-selected-as-most-appealing-investment-market-by-global-pension-funds>

Under-penetrated markets will drive sustained growth of Asia's insurance industry

As per report by CreditSights, a research unit of Fitch Solutions, despite potential rate decreases, growth of the insurance industry in Asia is expected to be sustained in 2024, driven by rising demand in underpenetrated insurance markets such as China, Southeast Asia, and India.

To read the whole article click on: <https://www.asiainsurancereview.com/News/View-Newsletter-Article/id/86621/Type/eDaily/Asia-Under-penetrated-markets-will-drive-sustained-growth-of-region-s-insurance-industry>

Reliance General Insurance's 25% equity transfer to Hinduja faces IRDAI objection

In a setback to the Hinduja Group, insurance regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has objected to Reliance General Insurance's (RGIC) proposal to transfer 25% equity of the company to Aasia Enterprises LLP, a Hinduja Group company.

To read the whole article click on:

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2023/Dec/12/rel-gen-insurances-25-equity-transfer-to-hinduja-faces-irdai-objection-2640813.html>

CCI approves Temasek, India Business Excellence Fund-IV stake buy in Niva Bupa Health Insurance

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its nod for Temasek controlled entity's stake buy in Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Ltd (Niva Bupa). Simultaneously, the fair trade regulator has also approved the acquisition of certain stake in Niva Bupa by India Business Excellence Fund-IV (Motilal Oswal Alternate Investment Advisors).

To read the whole article click on: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/cci-approves-temasek-india-business-excellence-fund-iv-stake-buy-in-niva-bupa-health-insurance/article67631974.ece>

M&M Finance to foray into life, health, General Insurance business

The Mahindra and Mahindra Finance said that it will enter the life, health and general insurance business. They have approved undertaking supplemental business activity of soliciting and procuring insurance business as a corporate agent (composite) in the areas of life, health and general insurance- both group and individual.

To read the whole article click on: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/mm-finance-to-foray-into-life-health-general-insurance-business-11908141.html>

Life insurers slump after surrender-value shock

Shares of most life insurance companies bucked a rallying market trend after the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) sought to massively hike the surrender value on non-par insurance products from the next year.

To read the whole article click on: <https://www.financialexpress.com/market/life-insurers-slump-after-surrender-value-shock-3339072/>

Only 12,500 claims in 10 years under PMJDY accident insurance cover

The Only a small fraction of beneficiaries of accident insurance cover under the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) have made claims since the plan was launched a decade ago, data showed.

According to Finance Ministry data, only 12,539 claims were received since April 1, 2014. Notably, the total number of number of RuPay debit cards issued to beneficiaries as of December 6, 2023, is 34.71 crore.

To read the whole article click on: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/only-12500-claims-in-10-years-under-pmjdy-accident-insurance-cover-11925661.html>

Soon, there will be no maximum age to buy health insurance policy

IRDAI has issued draft regulation on insurance policies in which it has proposed to do away with the maximum entry age to buy a health insurance policy. Currently, individuals can buy a fresh insurance policy till 65-years of age. In addition, the insurance regulator has asked health insurers to introduce targeted policies for specific segments like senior citizens and millennials.

To read the whole article click on: <https://www.cnbctv18.com/personal-finance/no-maximum-age-to-buy-health-insurance-soon-irdai-new-rule-policy-18602921.htm>

IRDAI Proposes to Cut Waiting Period for Pre-existing Diseases, Cap on Entry Age

In a major relief to health insurance policyholders, the insurance regulator has proposed to cut down the waiting period to cover pre-existing diseases (either disclosed or undisclosed) to three years from four years. In addition, the maximum entry age to buy health covers has also been done away with which would help senior citizens to get covered. The existing health insurance products cap the maximum entry age at 65 years.

To read the whole article click on:

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/201223/irdai-proposes-to-cut-waiting-period-for-pre-existing-diseases-cap-on.html>

Approval for 19 General insurance cos applications in IRDAI's pipeline

The Applications of 19 companies are pending with the insurance regulator – Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). Narayana Health Insurance, Paytm General Insurance (GI), and Prudential Health Insurance, among others, are in various stages of approval from the regulator, said a person familiar with the matter.

To read the whole article click on:

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/approval-for-19-general-insurance-cos-applications-in-irdai-s-pipeline-123122000856_1.html

Doctors body welcomes proposed regulator exclusively for health insurance

The Association of Healthcare Providers India (AHPI) has lauded the Ministry of Finance for contemplating setting up an independent regulator for health insurance. The AHPI has suggested that the proposed regulator, besides regulating the private insurance sector, must also cover all insurance schemes run by the government, such as PMJAY, CGHS, ECHS, ESI etc.

To read the whole article click on: <https://www.deccanherald.com/india/doctors-body-welcomes-proposed-regulator-exclusively-for-health-insurance-2824538>

LIC gets more time to comply with minimum public holding norm

The Centre through a one-time exemption has granted insurance major Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) time till May 2032 to comply with the 25% minimum public shareholding (MPS) requirement.

To read the whole article click on: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/lic-gets-more-time-to-comply-with-minimum-public-holding-norm/article67663344.ece>

India's insurance sector saw 25% rise in surrenders and withdrawals from life insurance policies in 2023

The year 2022-23 has seen a surge in the surrenders and withdrawals of life insurance policies. It has increased by 25.62 per cent to Rs 1.98 lakh crore compared to Rs 1.29 lakh crore in 2021-2022. The jump has been attributed to several factors ranging from rise in inflation and issues related to mis-selling of insurance policies.

To read the whole article click on: <https://www.businesstoday.in/personal-finance/insurance/story/indias-insurance-sector-saw-25-rise-in-surrenders-and-withdrawals-from-life-insurance-policies-in-2023-411066-2023-12-28>

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

