

# NEWSTRACK



# CURRENT NEWS





## Health, Life Insurance Demand Surges 2x Post GST Exemption: Report

- Demand for health insurance jumped 2.2x and term insurance 2.5x after GST removal.
- Surge marks highest-ever consumer interest since the pandemic years.
- Government's 0% GST reform has made protection products more affordable.
- Spike sustained beyond initial weeks, showing long-term behavioural shift.

Source: Outlook Money

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## Drive Home This Diwali with Confidence: Expert Tips to Choose the Right Motor Insurance

As the festive season ushers in prosperity and new beginnings, India's automobile market is once again gearing up for record-breaking Diwali sales. In 2024, car registrations surged past 4.25 lakh passenger vehicles by October 29, according to Autocar India — and 2025 is expected to see a similar, if not higher, festive boom.

Source: Kashmir Observer

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Diwali 2025: You can get ₹50,000 firecracker insurance Cover for just Rs 5

Every Diwali, hospitals across India see a tragic pattern repeat itself — a surge in firecracker-related accidents. From burns and eye injuries to fires triggered by stray sparks, the festival of lights often turns dangerous for many families.

In Delhi alone, fire and emergency calls rose 53% during Diwali 2024, according to the Delhi Fire Services. Similar spikes were reported in Bengaluru, Chandigarh, and Lucknow, with many cases involving children and bystanders.

Source: Business Standard

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## **How India Is Planning Affordable Insurance Cover For Organ Donors**

In an effort to improve access to life-saving surgeries, the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO), an agency under the health ministry, is set to meet the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) to explore ways to make transplant insurance more affordable and comprehensive, according to a government official and documents reviewed by Mint.

Source: Mena FN

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## CURRENT NEWS





## India non-life sector sees strong rebound in September

India's non-life insurance sector recorded a robust recovery in September 2025, with premium collections rising 13.2% year-onyear to Rs 31,117.6 crore, according to a report by CARE Ratings. This marks a significant turnaround from the 6.5% decline seen in September 2024 and outpaces the modest 1.6% growth posted in August 2025. The resurgence was fueled by solid renewals in core segments such as motor, crop, fire, engineering, alongside and heightened demand for specialized and personal accident insurance.

Source: Insurance Business

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## India:Can reduce its climate related losses by investing in social protection

The study says that India faces some of the highest climate risks globally and stands to lose over \$11.16bn in a severe climate shock scenario but by investing just \$2.2bn in early resilience measures, including by drought-proofing infrastructure, strengthening social registries, and expanding employment schemes, the country could offset these losses, saving over \$46bn when compared with reactive approaches.

Source: Asia Insurance

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India's FinTech boom exposes sector to rising cyber threats: PwC Report

India's rapidly expanding fintech industry is facing growing cybersecurity risks even as it cements its position as a global leader in digital finance, noted a report by PwC India and the Unified Fintech Forum (UFF).

The report, titled "FinSec: An Emerging Equation Between fintech and Cybersecurity," highlights how new technologies while driving innovation in digital payments, lending, neobanking, and blockchain are simultaneously creating new vulnerabilities.

Source: Asia Insurance Post

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## Transactional risk insurance claims rise in India as M&A deals grow

Transactional risk insurance claims are rising in India as dealmakers use these policies more often to manage merger and acquisition (M&A) risks, according to a new report from Marsh India.

The firm has handled around 50 claim notifications since 2017, with 11 filed in 2025 as of July.

About 77% of these came from private equity funds and 23% from corporates.

Source: Insurance Asia

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## **INSURANCE BLOGS**





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# Group vs individual health insurance plan: 5 things you must know

Group insurance seems convenient, but relying solely on it can be risky. Learn why individual health insurance offers continuity, flexibility, and tax advantages, ensuring your coverage remains intact regardless of employment.

Health insurance has become an essential part of financial planning in India. Many employees rely on group health insurance provided by their employers, while individuals can also purchase personal policies directly from insurers.

Both provide financial protection during medical emergencies, but they differ in ownership, flexibility, and long-term reliability.

## **OWNERSHIP**

One of the biggest distinctions lies in ownership. Group health insurance is tied to your employer. If you leave the job or the company discontinues the plan, your coverage ends, leaving you vulnerable to unexpected medical expenses.

Individual policies, on the other hand, are owned by the policyholder. They continue regardless of employment, providing lifelong protection and peace of mind.

## **PREMIUMS AND TAX BENEFITS**

Premiums and tax benefits also differ significantly. Group insurance often comes at a lower cost because the risk is pooled across employees. However, employees typically cannot claim tax deductions under Section 80D.

Individual health insurance premiums may be higher, but policyholders can avail themselves of tax deductions, and recent reforms have eliminated GST on individual policies, making them more affordable than before.

## **COVERAGE AND FLEXIBILITY**

Coverage and flexibility are another area where individual policies have an edge. Group insurance plans are standardised, which means customisation is limited and the sum insured may not always meet personal needs.

Individual insurance policies allow policyholders to add riders for critical illnesses, maternity, or top-up coverage, tailoring protection to their lifestyle and health risks.

## **CLAIM PROCESS**

The claims process also tends to be simpler with individual insurance. Group insurance claims are usually routed through the employer, which can cause delays or reduce transparency.

Direct dealings with insurers make individual claims more straightforward and ensure easier access to cashless hospitalisation.

## CONTINUITY

Finally, dependence on employment is a critical consideration. While group insurance stops once you leave your job, individual insurance continues regardless of your professional status. This independence ensures uninterrupted coverage and long-term financial security.

Simply put, while group health insurance is a valuable employee benefit, it should never replace individual coverage.

Individual health insurance guarantees continuity, flexibility, and tax advantages, making it a crucial safeguard for anyone serious about long-term protection.

Source: India Toda



# How AI is Transforming Health Insurance: A Comprehensive Guide

The rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has reshaped industries worldwide, and health insurance is no exception. The use of artificial intelligence in healthcare has not only streamlined processes but also introduced innovative ways to improve customer experiences and operational efficiency. This comprehensive guide delves into the transformative role of AI in healthcare and insurance, exploring its applications, benefits, and the future it holds.

## The Role of AI in Healthcare

Al has emerged as a revolutionary tool in healthcare, offering solutions that were once unimaginable. From personalised patient care to advanced diagnostics, the role of Al in healthcare is multifaceted. By analysing vast amounts of data, Al algorithms can identify patterns and make accurate predictions, enhancing the precision of medical treatments and disease management.

In <u>health insurance</u>, these capabilities translate into improved risk assessments, fraud detection, and personalised insurance products. Al-driven insights empower insurers to design policies tailored to the unique needs of individuals, bridging the gap between healthcare providers and policyholders.

## **How AI is Changing the Face of Health Insurance?**

Below listed are a few ways AI is changing the health insurance sector:

## **Streamlined Claims Processing**

Manual claims processing is often riddled with errors and delays. All simplifies this process by automating claims assessment, reducing human intervention, and ensuring accuracy. Machine learning algorithms can analyse medical records and policy terms, determining claim eligibility within minutes.

## **Fraud Detection and Prevention**

Insurance fraud is a significant challenge, costing the industry billions annually. All algorithms excel in detecting anomalies in claims data, and flagging potential fraud cases. By cross-referencing multiple data sources, All ensures that legitimate claims are processed quickly while preventing fraudulent activities.

#### **Personalised Health Plans**

Al enables insurers to create customised health plans by analysing individual health records, <u>lifestyle choices</u>, and genetic data. This personalised approach enhances customer satisfaction and aligns policies with actual healthcare needs.

## **Enhanced Customer Experience**

Al-powered chatbots and virtual assistants provide instant support to policyholders, addressing queries and guiding them through policy selection or claims filing. This real-time assistance improves user experience and fosters trust between insurers and customers.

## Benefits of AI in Healthcare and Insurance

The benefits of AI in healthcare extend beyond operational efficiency, directly impacting patient outcomes and customer satisfaction.

**Improved Diagnosis and Treatment:** All algorithms assist in early disease detection and personalised treatment plans, enhancing patient care quality.

**Cost Efficiency:** Automation reduces administrative costs for insurers, enabling them to offer competitive premiums.

**Predictive Analytics:** All predicts health risks and assists insurers in pricing policies more accurately.

**Accessibility:** Al tools like telemedicine platforms and virtual consultations make healthcare services accessible to a broader audience.

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## **Challenges in Implementing AI in Health Insurance**

Despite its advantages, the use of artificial intelligence in healthcare and insurance faces challenges:

**Data Privacy:** Handling sensitive health data requires stringent security measures to prevent breaches.

**Regulatory Compliance:** All adoption must align with local healthcare and insurance regulations, which can vary significantly.

**Integration Issues:** Combining AI tools with existing systems often requires substantial time and resources.

Overcoming these challenges involves collaboration between insurers, tech companies, and regulatory bodies to establish robust frameworks for AI deployment.

#### The Future of AI in Health Insurance

The future of AI in insurance is promising, with advancements poised to reshape the industry further:

**Predictive Underwriting:** All will enhance underwriting by analysing real-time health data from wearable devices, creating dynamic policies that evolve with policyholders' health conditions.

**Proactive Health Management:** Insurers can leverage AI to promote healthier lifestyles among customers, offering incentives for meeting wellness goals.

**Seamless Integration:** Emerging technologies like blockchain and IoT will complement AI, ensuring transparency and efficiency in health insurance processes.

## **Real-Life Applications of AI in Healthcare**

**Virtual Health Assistants:** Al-powered tools like Babylon Health provide virtual consultations, helping patients receive immediate medical advice.

**Claims Automation:** Leading insurers like <u>Niva Bupa</u> use AI to automate claims processing, ensuring faster settlements.

**Predictive Healthcare Models:** All algorithms predict health trends, allowing insurers to anticipate claims and adjust policies accordingly.

#### **Bottom Line**

Al is not just transforming health insurance—it's redefining how the industry operates. From automating <u>claims</u> <u>processing</u> to enabling personalised policies and proactive healthcare management, the integration of Al has brought efficiency, accuracy, and customer-centricity to the forefront. The role of Al in healthcare and insurance has expanded beyond data analysis to deliver tangible benefits like fraud prevention, enhanced customer experiences, and cost savings.

However, realising the full potential of AI in insurance requires addressing challenges like data privacy, regulatory compliance, and system integration. With continued advancements in technology and collaboration among stakeholders, AI will undoubtedly drive the future of health insurance, making it more accessible, transparent, and impactful for individuals and businesses alike.

#### **FAQs**

## 1. How is AI transforming health insurance processes?

Al automates claims processing, enhances fraud detection, and enables personalised health plans. It also improves customer experience through Al-powered chatbots and virtual assistants.

## 2. What are the key benefits of AI in healthcare and insurance?

Al offers improved diagnostic accuracy, cost efficiency, predictive analytics, and accessibility, leading to better patient outcomes and customer satisfaction.

3. What challenges does AI face in healthcare and insurance? Key challenges include data privacy concerns, regulatory compliance, and integration with existing systems. Addressing these issues requires robust frameworks and collaboration between stakeholders.

Al is revolutionising health insurance by creating a more efficient, transparent, and customer-centric industry. The role of Al in healthcare and insurance is pivotal in shaping a future where technology and care converge, offering unparalleled benefits to all stakeholders involved.

Source: Niva Bupa



## Historic Diwali Gift for the Nation

## NEXT-GEN GST REFORM

## for Ease of Living & to build Aatmanirbhar Bharat

From farmers to enterprises, from households to businesses, the Next-Gen GST brings happiness for all!

## Save Big on Daily Essentials

Items	From	То
Hair Oil, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toilet Soap Bar, Tooth Brushes, Shaving Cream	18%	5%
Butter, Ghee, Cheese & Dairy Spreads	12%	5%
Pre-packaged Namkeens, Bhujia & Mixtures	12%	5%
Utensils	12%	5%
Feeding Bottles, Napkins for Babies & Clinical Diapers	12%	5%
Sewing Machines & Parts	12%	5%

## **Uplifting Farmers & Agriculture**

Items	From	То
Tractor Tyres & Parts	18%	5%
Tractors	12%	5%
Specified Bio-Pesticides, Micro-Nutrients	12%	5%
Drip Irrigation System & Sprinklers	12%	5%
Agricultural, Horticultural or Forestry Machines for Soil Preparation, Cultivation, Harvesting & Threshing	12%	5%

## Relief in Healthcare Sector

Items	From	То
Individual Health & Life Insurance	18%	Nil
Thermometer	18%	5%
Medical Grade Oxygen	12%	5%
All Diagnostic Kits & Reagents	12%	5%
Glucometer & Test Strips	12%	5%
Corrective Spectacles	12%	5%

## Automobiles made affordable

Items	From	То
Petrol & Petrol Hybrid, LPG, CNG Cars (not exceeding - 1200 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
Diesel & Diesel Hybrid Cars (not exceeding - 1500 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
3 Wheeled Vehicles	28%	18%
Motor Cycles (350 cc & below)	28%	18%
Motor Vehicles for transport of goods	28%	18%

## Affordable Education

Items	From	То
Maps, Charts & Globes	12%	Nil
Pencils, Sharpeners, Crayons & Pastels	12%	Nil
Exercise Books & Notebooks	12%	Nil
Eraser	5%	Nil

## Save on Electronic Appliances

Items	From	То
Air Conditioners	28%	18%
Television (above 32") (including LED & LCD TVs)	28%	18%
Monitors & Projectors	28%	18%
Dish Washing Machines	28%	18%

## PROCESS REFORMS

## Registration

Automatic registration within 3 working days for applicants:

- Identified by the system based on data analysis
- Who determines that he would not pass Input Tax Credit exceeding ₹2.5 Lakh per month and opts for the Scheme

## Refund

Sanction of Provisional Refunds by proper officer, through system based risk evaluation for:

- Zero Rated Supplies
- Supplies with Inverted Duty Structure



The next generation of GST reforms are a gift for every Indian this Diwali. Taxes for the general public will be reduced substantially. Our MSMEs & small entrepreneurs will get huge benefit. Everyday items will become cheaper and this will also give a new boost to the economy.

> Narendra Modi **Prime Minister**

Next-Gen GST - Better & Simpler!

For the complete list of recommended revised rates & other GST changes, please scan:

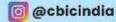


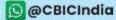
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