

Buy insurance against terror strikes now

It makes sense to seek cover that takes into account the possibility of terror strikes and their fallout

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Recent incidents have put the spotlight on insurance against terrorism-related incidents. "Recognise the importance of travel insurance, even when you are going to countries where it is not mandatory," says Nikhil Apte, Chief Product Officer, Product Factory (Health Insurance), Royal Sundaram Alliance Insurance. "Travel insurance provides you financial cover and peace of mind if you get caught in volatile situations," says Naval Goel, CEO and Founder, *PolicyX.com*, an insurance aggregation portal. Insurers distinguish between war, riots and terrorism. The latter is defined as an act of violence that causes loss of life and property where perpetrators belong to groups that seek to weaken control of governments.

When you seek insurance against terror strikes, you need to read the fine print to understand the scope of coverage and the items the company will not pay for.

Travel insurance

"All risks like trip cancellation, loss of passport, medical expenses, repatriation of remains etc are covered as part of the regular travel policy even if they result from terrorism," says Sanjay Datta, Chief, Underwriting and Claims, ICICI Lombard General Insurance. Your accommodation expenses will also be reimbursed if you have to extend

Read the fine print of your policy

INSURANCE	WHAT IS NORMALLY COVERED	IN CASE OF TERROR ATTACK
Travel	Medical expenses, evacuation, trip cancellation and repatriation of remains.	Some policies do not pay for expenses arising out of terror attacks.
Health	Medical expenses and emergency evacuation.	Medical expenses are covered but only high-end policies cover incidents outside India.
Home	Damage caused to home and contents.	Most policies require additional premium for this coverage.
Personal accident	Policyholder's death and compensation for disability in case of accident.	Some policies exclude biological, chemical or nuclear terror attacks.
Life	Policyholder's death.	Pays full amount.

Go through the terms and conditions before zeroing in on one that fits the bill. Note: Scope of coverage and exclusions depend on the insurer and product variant chosen. Source: Insurers

your stay due to an emergency. Depending on the variant chosen, the company will also pay for your journey back home.

However, you need to go through the policy documents in detail before signing up as some companies may not pay for risks emanating from terrorism. Besides, even in policies that provide insurance against terror, insurers will not admit claims if policyholders visit destinations that are known to be facing such risks or knowingly violate

safety regulations. You also need to figure out whether the coverage applies only to a city, or extends to the country as a whole.

Health insurance

Terrorism-related medical emergencies fall under the ambit of health insurance coverage. "Hospitalisation expenses of victims of terrorist attacks are covered. The insured would also be covered for pre and post-hospitalisation and ambulance expenses as well

as other expenses as per the policy coverage," says Sasikumar Adidamu, Chief Technical Officer, Non-Motor, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance. Several higher-end health covers today cover medical emergencies across the world, and not just India.

Personal accident insurance

Such covers compensate the policyholders for disabilities suffered due to accident or the nominees in case of the former's death. "Domestic personal accident policies will cover death due to accidents, including terror attacks," says Apte. However, medical expenses linked to biological, chemical or nuclear terror attacks may not be covered.

Home insurance

While some home insurance policies like New India's product come with an in-built terror cover, several others offer it as an add-on cover requiring a minimum extra premium of ₹80-100. This terror insurance component covers damage directly caused by attackers and loss incurred during counter-terror action. "Home insurance does not cover for loss arising out of burglary, house-breaking, looting or theft that occur after an act of terrorism," says Adidamu.

Life insurance

The policyholder's dependents will be entitled to life insurance proceeds upon his or her death in a terror attack.