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[Travel Insurance: Most underrated but must-have cover](#)

Travel insurance for a trip to the North East India for 7 days is available for close to Rs 100, which is insignificant when compared to the overall trip expenses.

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I believe that our character and personalities are developed through our experiences and what we choose to learn from them. Travelling is one such experience. All of us love to travel and in India now with higher disposable incomes, people travelling to other countries is increasing.

These travels are usually aligned with vacation times of children for younger families, or with parents meeting their children who are studying/ working abroad or in another city within India. This is furthered by the digitisation of the travel industry, be it ticket booking or booking of hotels. In fact, various tour operators are trying to outdo each other by offering best packages to customers.

However, this has led to an ever-evolving risk or should I say a set of risks. The difficulty of being stuck in a foreign place with unknown surroundings can be quite alienating and even scary. This multiplicity of risks need to be alleviated, and here is where a travel insurance policy comes in. Most perceive travel insurance just as a medical cover while travelling overseas, but it offers a lot more than that.

Medical expenses cover & personal accident cover

We always expect to have a fun travel experience and don't like to think that something might go wrong. I feel while travelling anywhere one must have a comprehensive health cover, combination of medical expenses cover with personal accident cover.

An individual is most vulnerable to medical emergencies while travelling abroad due to different climatic conditions. While medical expenses covers hospitalisation expenses, treatment of bodily injury and ambulance fee, a personal accident cover provides fixed benefit compensation for death and disability due to an accident.

It is critical to have these covers as medical and healthcare are quite high outside India and any medical emergency can jeopardize the entire travel plan. Some insurers also provide adventure sports cover as a part of their personal accident policy which can be used throughout the country, travelling or otherwise.

Hence, one should check whether your personal accident policy covers adventure sports before embarking on a tour that involves adventure sports.

Loss/delay of checked baggage

The worst thing that can happen while travelling is loss/delay of your luggage. It makes you feel helpless and perplexed. The recovery of the baggage can range from few hours to few days and shopping for essentials is expensive. A travel insurance cover will take care of expenses incurred towards the purchase of essentials due to loss or delay of your checked baggage.

Loss of passport

Losing your passport in a foreign country is like a nightmare since it is the most essential document one must have while travelling. The customer needs to report the loss of passport to the appropriate

authorities and also procure another passport at their own expense. A travel insurance policy helps the individual by reimbursing a specified amount as per the sum assured to get the duplicate passport made.

Trip delay cover

Technical issues and adverse weathers are some of the common reasons behind the delay of your flight. This cover compensates delay of flight. If the flight booked from, or to India (or origin in case of domestic flights), is delayed beyond 12 hours typically (between 75 mins to 6 hours for domestic) than the original scheduled departure time, the insurer is liable to pay as per sum insured in the policy.

Home burglary insurance

This cover ensures that one has peace of mind by safeguarding the home against a probable, loss or damage to contents when the insured is travelling. The cover commences from the date of departure of the insured from the country and ends on the expiry date or date of return to the country whichever is earlier.

Some of the other covers include, trip cancellation, trip curtailment, emergency dental pain relief, personal liability, repatriation of mortal remains, emergency cash relief and personal liability cover. While buying a travel insurance cover one can opt for a cover as per the region you are travelling, as the destination and duration of travel determines the premium.

Travel insurance cover is inexpensive; for example, a trip to the North East India for seven days is available for close to Rs 100, which is insignificant when compared to overall trip expenses.

With increased domestic travel, there are convenient and customisable covers in place for your excursions within India as well. Lately, travel insurance cover is even being broken down into a per-trip cover, especially for local transport like your cab ride within the city.

Most of us save up for a trip and if any of circumstances mentioned above were to happen, it would further burn a hole into the hard earned savings.

The best part is that this comprehensive policy is fairly inexpensive, which makes it a must have. In fact, some countries/ regions make it mandatory to have a travel insurance policy in place, even before applying for visa, for example a Schengen visa.

So, the next time you travel, ensure this highly underrated, but essential cover is at the top in your priority list while you make your travel plan.

The writer is MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance