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There are people who give their car a sick name, call it their most "prized" possession, wash it with affection and keep it spark and shine. As vehicle owners, most of us are guilty of doing this, aren't we? But as much as we take care of our cars, do we also invest time in securing it with a good insurance cover?

India is one of the countries that tops the charts when it comes to road accidents. Since our cars can cause considerable damage to property and cause significant human injury in the event of a mishap, it is required by law to insure it for third party liability. But this third party cover wouldn't pay for the damages caused to our vehicle in case of a mishap. For this, we need to add an 'own damage cover' that pays us up for the loss suffered in terms of repair costs.

Now that we know that a motor insurance policy is important for the financial well-being of our car and any damages that it may lead to

into, how do we go about selecting the right insurance policy? The below 10 point comprehensive checklist will help us because a job at choosing the right coverage for our cars.

IDV: The Insured Declared Value (IDV) refers to the current market value of the car. It is the maximum amount we can claim in case of the theft or total loss of the vehicle. IDV is arrived at by deducting the depreciation of the vehicle from the manufacturer's listed selling price.

Coverage: This has two parts. A mandatory Third party cover which protects us against any liability to third party in the wake of a loss. The second and optional 'Own Damage' part of the insurance takes care of the financial losses we have to bear in case an accident, theft, fire, explosion, riots, strikes or act of terrorism and natural calamities.

Add-Ons: This is like asking for extra things, upon paying some extra money. These add-on covers provide us with added benefits.

Like an engine protector add-on provides for claims in case of engine damage due to water implosion, a Zero Dep cover ensures that depreciation isn't applied to claims at least in the first 3-5 years.

Understanding Exclusions: It is both our right and duty to understand our motor insurance policy especially the exclusions i.e. what is covered, and what is outside the scope of the policy. In case we have any doubts, we can seek clarifications with the insurance company (preferably before the policy purchase).

Network of the insurer: It is an important factor to check that whether the insurer of our choice has extensive tie-ups with garages and service centres especially in the city of our resi-

dence. This comes in handy in case of a claim scenario.

Ease of Claiming: In order to get you easy and fast claims settlements, insurers these days are leveraging technology that brings claims settlement to our doorstep through apps. With these facilities, we just have to upload photos and videos of the vehicle damage, and the claims are settled by digital money transfer to our account within minutes. Checking if our insurer offers these facilities saves us a lot of time in a claim like scenario.

Brand Value of Policy: Like we place faith and trust in the brand of our car, we should have a similar trust in the policy that protects it. A good brand will ensure value for money by ensuring a great coverage, timely support and easy claims assistance. Hence, instead of going for the cheapest policy, we must check if the brand issuing our policy is a trusted insurance company, has a good claim paying ability with a grievance ratio.

Deductible: With this provision in a motor insurance policy, we agree that at the time of claim, we will bear a certain claim amount up to a pre-agreed limit from our own pocket. As a summary there is a

compulsory deductible of ₹1000/- on cars of cubic capacity (CC) of 1500 or below, or ₹2000/- for cars with a higher CC.

Ease of Renewal: Since motor insurance is an annual contract, it is crucial to ensure that the vehicle remains insured at all times. These days, renewing is convenient and we can do it through the insurer's website or mobile app, agents, dealers or bank partners of insurers. We must check how proactive is the chosen insurer when it comes to renewing the policy.

NCB: Timely renewals help us to keep our No Claim Bonus (NCB) intact. NCB is a discount, given by an insurer to a policyholder for making no claims during the policy term. It can be accumulated over years and the discount ranges from 20% to 50% on the own damage premium as per the number of claim free years.

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