

■ **National List of Essential Medicines 2022 Released; 34 Drugs Added**

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, launched the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) 2022 on 13th September 2022. 384 drugs feature in this list with the addition of 34 drugs while 26 from the previous list have been dropped. The medicines have been categorized into 27 therapeutic categories. The primary purpose of NLEM is to promote rational use of medicines considering the three important aspects i.e., cost, safety and efficacy. It also helps in optimum utilization of healthcare resources and budget; drug procurement policies, health insurance; improving prescribing habits; medical education and training for UG/PG; and drafting pharmaceutical policies. In NLEM, the medicines are categorized based on level of healthcare system as- P- Primary; S- Secondary and T- Tertiary.