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Nitrofurans: FSSAI Egg Safety Drive

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Subject: GS Paper II (Health) & GS Paper III (Agriculture) **UPSC Relevance:** Food safety standards, AMR, and regulatory bodies.

- **What are Nitrofurans?** They are synthetic, broad-spectrum **antibiotics**. In poultry, they are used to prevent diseases like Coccidiosis and to promote faster weight gain.
- **The Health Crisis:**
- **Carcinogenic:** They are proven to be cancer-causing in long-term consumption.
- **AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance):** Constant exposure to low doses of antibiotics via food makes human bacteria resistant to life-saving drugs.
- **Regulatory Action:** FSSAI launched a nationwide drive to test eggs after high residues were found. Under Indian law, the use of Nitrofurans in "Food-Producing Animals" is **strictly prohibited**.
- **UPSC Tip:** Link this to the "**One Health**" concept, where animal health and human health are treated as one integrated system.

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