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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS-

1. LAC 'Disturbed' by PLA's Behaviour: MEA Admits
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3. Shamonda Virus: Emerging Zoonotic Threats and Public Health Concerns
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5. PLFS Reforms from January 2027
6. AI and Cybersecurity: The Race to Fix Software Vulnerabilities

1.LAC 'Disturbed' by PLA's Behaviour: MEA Admits

Source: The Hindu

Why in the News?

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has acknowledged that the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is periodically disturbed when the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) deviates from established patrolling patterns. The statement came amid reports of continuing face-offs between Indian and Chinese troops at several locations along the Arunachal Pradesh border.

The development has renewed attention on the unresolved boundary dispute between India and China, the implementation of border-management arrangements and the broader implications of recurring military friction for bilateral relations.

Background

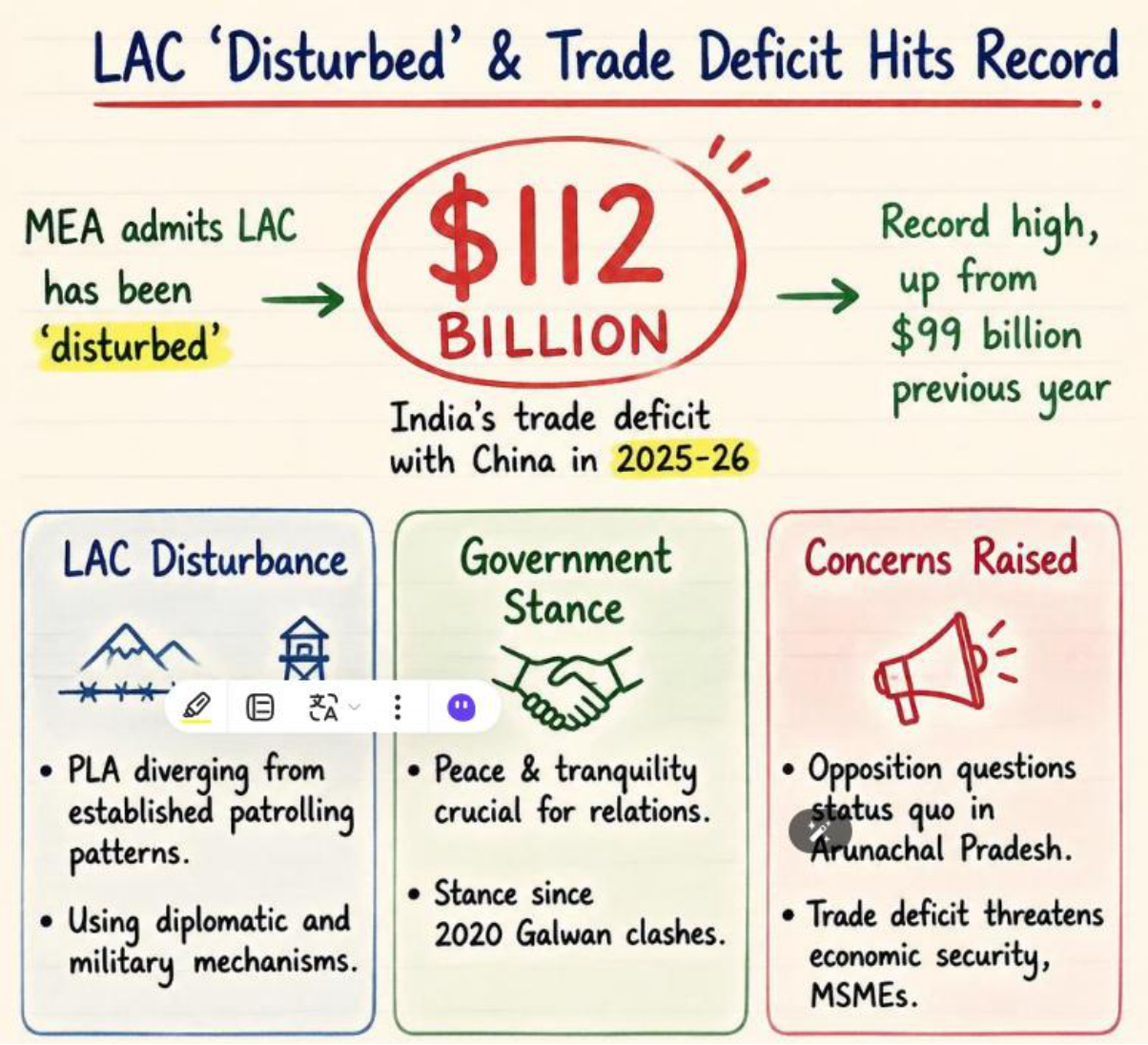
- India and China share a long, disputed land boundary extending across the western, middle and eastern sectors. The LAC serves as the de facto line separating territories controlled by the two countries, although both sides have differing perceptions of its alignment in several areas.
- The Galwan Valley clash of June 2020 significantly deteriorated bilateral relations and highlighted the risks associated with unresolved boundary differences. Subsequent diplomatic and military engagements have sought to reduce tensions, maintain communication and prevent further escalation.
- Despite these efforts, differences in patrolling practices and perceptions of the LAC continue to create the possibility of face-offs between personnel of the two countries.

Key Developments

- The MEA's statement highlighted the importance of established patrolling patterns and existing communication mechanisms in maintaining stability along the border. Deviations from mutually understood practices can lead to encounters between troops, complicating efforts to preserve peace and tranquillity.

- Reports concerning face-offs in Arunachal Pradesh have also drawn attention to the eastern sector of the India–China boundary. Arunachal Pradesh occupies an important strategic position in India's northeastern region and remains a source of territorial disagreement between the two countries.

India has maintained that peace and tranquillity in border areas are essential for the normal development of bilateral relations. Both countries continue to rely on diplomatic dialogue and military-level mechanisms to address incidents, resolve differences and prevent misunderstandings from escalating.



Strategic Significance of Arunachal Pradesh

- Arunachal Pradesh is strategically important because of its geographical location along the eastern Himalayan frontier. Its mountainous terrain, border connectivity and proximity to the Tibetan region give it considerable significance for India's defence preparedness.
- China disputes India's sovereignty over Arunachal Pradesh and refers to much of the state as part of its claimed territory. India consistently maintains that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of the country.
- Recurring face-offs in the region underline the need for effective border surveillance, infrastructure development, clear communication between local commanders and sustained diplomatic engagement.

Implications for India–China Relations

1. Border security: Recurring face-offs demonstrate the continuing risks arising from differing perceptions of the LAC and the absence of a mutually agreed boundary.

2. Bilateral trust: Border tensions can undermine efforts to restore political trust and normalise relations between the two countries.

3. Defence preparedness: The situation reinforces the importance of surveillance, logistics, road connectivity and the operational readiness of border forces.

4. Diplomatic engagement: Regular military and diplomatic communication remains essential for managing incidents and preventing unintended escalation.

5. Regional stability: Persistent friction between two major Asian powers has wider implications for regional security and strategic stability.

Economic Dimension: India's Trade Deficit with China

- India's economic relationship with China is characterised by substantial bilateral trade alongside concerns about the imbalance between imports and exports.
- A growing trade deficit can increase dependence on Chinese supplies in selected sectors and create competitive pressures for domestic manufacturers, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- The economic dimension adds complexity to bilateral relations because security concerns coexist with commercial interdependence. Strengthening domestic manufacturing, diversifying import sources and improving the competitiveness of Indian industries can help reduce vulnerabilities without overlooking the benefits of international trade.
- Trade figures cited in current-affairs reports should be checked against official Department of Commerce data before being used in examination answers.

Challenges in Border Management

- Unresolved boundary dispute: The absence of a mutually agreed and demarcated boundary sustains differences in territorial perceptions.
- Differing patrolling practices: Overlapping claims and deviations from established practices can trigger face-offs.
- Difficult terrain: High-altitude conditions and limited accessibility complicate surveillance, troop movement and logistics.
- Trust deficit: The legacy of the 2020 Galwan clash continues to influence perceptions of Chinese military activity.
- Coordination requirements: Effective incident management depends on timely communication and adherence to existing bilateral arrangements.

Way Forward

- India needs to pursue a balanced approach combining diplomatic engagement with credible border preparedness.
- Strengthen communication mechanisms: Regular meetings between military commanders and effective use of established hotlines can help prevent misunderstandings.
- Clarify patrolling arrangements: Continued dialogue on patrolling practices and differing perceptions of the LAC can reduce the likelihood of face-offs.
- Improve border infrastructure: Roads, bridges, surveillance systems and logistics facilities are essential for operational preparedness in remote areas.

2.SC Backs Voters' Right to Prosecute Candidates

Source: The Hindu

Why in the News?

The Supreme Court of India has ruled that private citizens can file criminal complaints against electoral candidates for furnishing false information or concealing relevant details in their nomination papers under Section 125A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951.

A Bench comprising Justices Dipankar Datta and Sheel Nagu clarified that such complaints are not restricted exclusively to public servants or designated authorities. The judgment examined the applicability of Section 195 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which prescribes procedural restrictions on the prosecution of certain offences.

The ruling strengthens citizen participation in electoral accountability and reinforces the importance of truthful disclosures by candidates contesting elections.

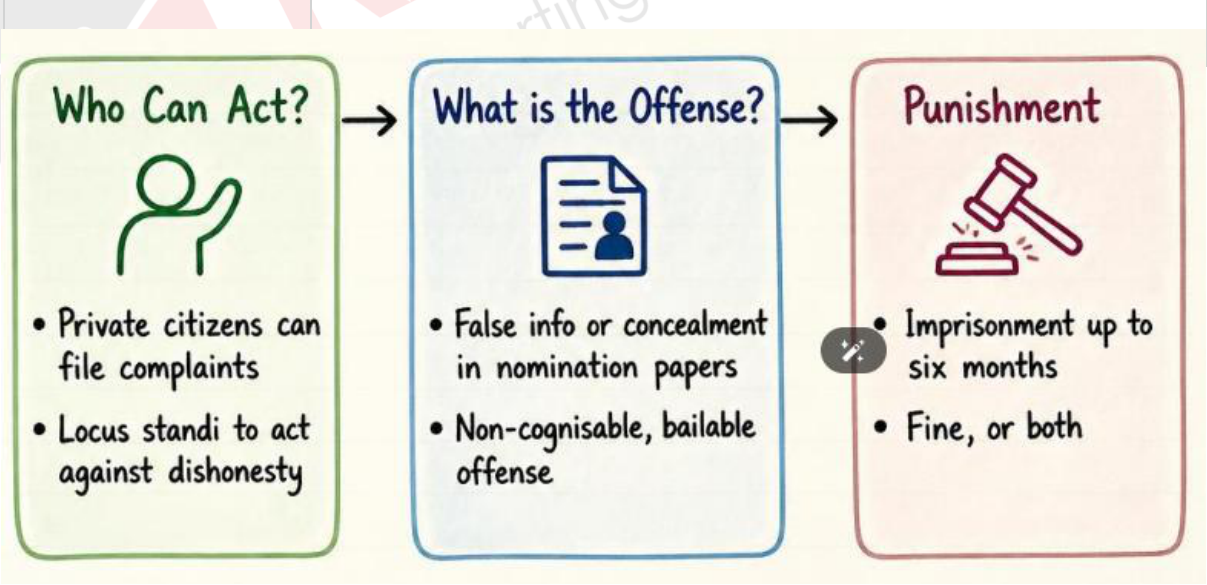
Background

- Free and fair elections form an essential component of India's democratic system. Voters require reliable information about candidates to make informed electoral choices. Consequently, electoral laws require candidates to disclose specified personal and financial information when filing their nomination papers.
- These disclosures include assets and liabilities, educational qualifications and criminal antecedents, as prescribed under the applicable election rules and affidavit requirements.
- The disclosure framework emerged from judicial interventions recognising the voter's right to know about candidates. In *Union of India v. Association for Democratic Reforms* (2002) and *People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India* (2003), the Supreme Court strengthened the constitutional basis for electoral disclosure, linking the voter's right to information with freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a).
- Section 125A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, provides penal consequences for specified failures and false statements relating to candidate disclosures.

Key Provisions of the Law

Section 125A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951

- The provision deals with specified offences involving failure to furnish required information, false information or concealment of relevant particulars in the prescribed electoral disclosure process.
- The provision prescribes imprisonment for a term that may extend to six months, a fine, or both.



Section 195 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973

- Section 195 CrPC restricts courts from taking cognisance of certain specified offences except upon a complaint by the relevant public servant or court, as applicable.
- The Supreme Court examined whether this procedural restriction prevented private citizens from initiating complaints concerning offences under Section 125A of the RPA.
- The Court concluded that the restriction did not bar private complaints in the circumstances covered by the judgment.

Nature of the offence

Section 125A classifies the relevant offence as non-cognisable and bailable. The applicable procedural requirements continue to govern investigation and prosecution.

Significance of the Judgment

1. Strengthening Electoral Transparency

The judgment reinforces the principle that candidates must provide truthful information to the electorate. Disclosure requirements enable voters to assess candidates' financial interests, qualifications and criminal backgrounds before exercising their franchise.

2. Citizen-Led Accountability

By recognising the ability of private citizens to file complaints in the circumstances addressed by the judgment, the Court strengthens participatory democracy. Electoral accountability is no longer viewed solely through the actions of election authorities; citizens can also play a role in enforcing statutory requirements.

3. Protection of the Voter's Right to Know

The right to receive information about electoral candidates is closely connected with Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. False or incomplete disclosures can undermine informed electoral choice and weaken public confidence in democratic institutions.

4. Interpretation of Criminal Procedure

The judgment clarifies the relationship between the substantive offence under Section 125A of the RPA and procedural restrictions under Section 195 CrPC. It highlights the importance of interpreting procedural provisions in accordance with their statutory scope.

5. Promoting Ethical Political Conduct

Truthful declarations are essential to integrity in public life. The possibility of citizen-initiated complaints can strengthen deterrence against deliberate concealment and encourage greater compliance with electoral disclosure requirements.

Challenges and Concerns

Despite its significance, effective implementation will require careful attention to several issues.

- **Frivolous complaints:** Political rivals may attempt to use complaints to harass candidates or disrupt electoral campaigns.
- **Judicial workload:** Increased complaints may place additional demands on magistrates and the judicial system.
- **Enforcement gaps:** Detecting false declarations requires verification of financial, educational and criminal records.
- **Adequacy of penalties:** The prescribed punishment under Section 125A may prompt further debate about deterrence and electoral reform.
- **Procedural clarity:** Authorities and citizens need clear guidance on filing complaints, establishing evidence and pursuing prosecution.

Way Forward

- **Strengthen verification:** Election authorities should improve the verification of candidate affidavits through appropriate coordination with relevant government agencies and public databases.
- **Improve voter awareness:** Voters should have easy access to candidate affidavits and reliable information about assets, liabilities, qualifications and criminal cases.
- **Ensure timely adjudication:** Complaints involving false disclosures should be handled efficiently, with due process and safeguards against politically motivated litigation.
- **Promote transparency:** Political parties and candidates should adopt stronger internal standards for accurate disclosures and ethical conduct.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court's ruling reinforces the role of citizens in protecting electoral integrity by recognising that private complaints can be maintained against candidates for specified false disclosures under Section 125A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

By strengthening accountability at the nomination stage, the judgment supports informed voting, transparency and ethical conduct in public life. Its effectiveness will ultimately depend on credible verification, timely judicial proceedings and safeguards against misuse of the complaint mechanism. These measures are essential to maintaining public confidence in India's electoral democracy.

3.Shamonda Virus: Emerging Zoonotic Threats and Public Health Concerns

The recent confirmation of a human case of Shamonda virus in France has highlighted the growing concern over emerging zoonotic diseases and the importance of the One Health

approach. The reported case involved a severely immunocompromised patient, marking an exceptional development in the understanding of the virus's impact on human health.

What is the Shamonda Virus?

- Classification: Shamonda virus (SHAV) belongs to the genus Orthobunyavirus and the Simbu group of viruses.
- Discovery: It was first isolated from cattle in Nigeria in 1965.
- Transmission: It is primarily transmitted through the bites of infected Culicoides midges.
- Animal hosts: It mainly affects livestock, including cattle, sheep, goats, horses and alpacas.
- Human infection: The reported case in France raises concerns about the potential for spillover from animals to humans, particularly among immunocompromised individuals.

Key Developments in France

According to the report, France confirmed an exceptional human case involving a patient in their sixties with leukaemia, who subsequently died.

- The patient reportedly developed severe neurological symptoms, including blindness and confusion, before falling into a coma.
- Laboratory testing of cerebrospinal fluid and genome sequencing reportedly identified the SHAV-EU1 variant.
- The infection was suspected to have been acquired through a midge bite in eastern France, where the virus was reportedly circulating in animals.
- French authorities stated that no risk to the general public had been identified at the time of the report.
- The reported case should be understood in context: a single human infection does not establish sustained human-to-human transmission or widespread public health risk.

Symptoms and Impact

In animals

- Shamonda virus infection may be associated with:
- Fever and diarrhoea.
- Reduced milk production.
- Reproductive disorders.
- Occasional neurological manifestations.

In humans

The available evidence on human infection remains limited. The reported case involved severe neurological complications in an immunocompromised patient. Further research is needed to establish the full clinical spectrum, transmission dynamics and risk factors associated with human infection.

Why Is Shamonda Virus Significant?

- Emerging zoonotic diseases: Pathogens circulating in animals can occasionally cross species barriers, creating new public health challenges.
- Vector-borne transmission: The dependence on Culicoides midges makes disease transmission sensitive to environmental conditions, vector distribution and seasonal activity.
- Vulnerable populations: Immunocompromised individuals may be at greater risk of severe outcomes from certain infections, although the specific risk associated with Shamonda virus requires further study.
- Climate and ecological changes: Changes in temperature, rainfall, land use and livestock movement may alter vector habitats and disease distribution. However, the role of these factors in the reported case requires specific evidence.
- Limited medical countermeasures: The report notes that no commercially available vaccine is currently available, making surveillance and prevention particularly important.

Prevention and Control Measures

- The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) promotes animal disease surveillance and control. Key preventive measures include:
- Vector control: Reducing exposure to infected midges and managing potential breeding habitats.
- Animal surveillance: Monitoring livestock for symptoms and detecting infections early.
- Physical barriers: Using suitable protective measures to limit vector contact with animals.
- Movement management: Considering periods of lower vector activity when transporting livestock.
- Integrated surveillance: Strengthening coordination between veterinary, environmental and human health authorities

4.Agri-Voltaics: Integrating Agriculture with Solar Energy

Source: IE

Why in News?

Agri-voltaics is the dual use of the same land for agricultural activities and solar photovoltaic (PV) power generation. It promotes farmers' income diversification, efficient land utilisation and India's clean energy transition.

Key Highlights

- Current status: India had 36 operational agrivoltaic projects with an installed capacity of 37.54 MW as of August 2025.
- Potential: India's estimated agrivoltaic potential ranges from 3,000 GW to 14,000 GW.
- Farmer income: Annual earnings could rise from around ₹60,000 to over ₹1 lakh per acre, according to the cited estimates.
- Suitable states: Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

How Does It Work?

Elevated solar panels allow crops to grow underneath while enabling farm operations. Partial shading can reduce heat stress and soil-water evaporation, depending on crop type, panel design and local climate.

Government Initiatives and Institutions

- PM-KUSUM: Promotes solar energy adoption in agriculture, including solar pumps and decentralised solar power generation.
- Centre of Excellence on Agrivoltaics: Established by the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) and ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI).
- India Agrivoltaics Alliance (IAA): Anchored by the National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI), supporting policy advocacy and pilot projects.
- State initiatives: Maharashtra's Mukhyamantri Saur Krushi Vahini Yojana 2.0 and Gujarat's Kisan Suryoday Yojana promote solar energy in agriculture.

Benefits

- Economic: Diversifies farmers' income through crop production and electricity generation.
- Agricultural: May reduce heat stress and water loss while supporting cultivation in suitable conditions.
- Energy: Supports renewable energy generation and reduces dependence on diesel-powered irrigation.
- Land use: Minimises competition between food production and solar installations.
- Environmental: Contributes to clean energy and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Challenges

High initial investment, structural costs, crop-specific shading requirements, maintenance, land-use permissions and grid connectivity can constrain adoption. Poorly designed installations may reduce crop yields or hinder farm machinery.

Way Forward

Promote crop-specific research, affordable financing, farmer cooperatives, pilot projects, suitable solar-panel designs and integration with PM-KUSUM. Strong monitoring of crop yields, water use and farmer incomes is essential to ensure that agrivoltaics benefits both agriculture and energy production.

5.PLFS Reforms from January 2027

Source: IE

Why in news?

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), is set to undergo changes from January 2027 to improve the coverage, accuracy and relevance of India's labour market statistics.

Key Proposed Changes

- Digital platform workers: A separate sampling stratum will be introduced to improve coverage of gig and platform workers.
- Updated sampling frame: The Urban Frame Survey (UFS) will be used for urban areas, while the Census 2011 rural frame will be used for rural areas, as described in the proposal.
- Revised questionnaire: New questions will identify digital platform workers and capture unpaid activities.
- Improved sampling design: Changes to sample allocation and stratification aim to improve population representation and the reliability of estimates.
- Transition period: A three-month transition from January 2027 is proposed for integrating the updated sampling frame.

About PLFS

- Launched: 2017.
- Conducted by: NSO, MoSPI.

- Purpose: To estimate key employment and unemployment indicators, including the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR).
- 2025 reform: Changes introduced from January 2025 enabled more frequent monthly, quarterly and annual labour market estimates.

Significance

- Gig economy: Better measurement of digital platform workers, such as app-based delivery and ride-hailing workers.
- Invisible work: Improved recognition of unpaid activities, including relevant forms of household and family work.
- Evidence-based policymaking: More reliable data for employment schemes, labour welfare and skill development.
- Changing economy: Updated sampling frames can better reflect urbanisation and the emergence of new urban areas.
- International comparability: Better labour statistics can support evidence-based comparisons, subject to consistent definitions and methodologies.

Challenges

Capturing informal and multiple-job workers, distinguishing economic activity from unpaid household services, ensuring representative samples and maintaining comparability with historical estimates will remain important.

Way Forward

The government should ensure transparent survey methodology, clear definitions of gig and unpaid work, adequate enumerator training and regular publication of revised estimates. Comparability with earlier PLFS series should be explained wherever methodological changes affect the data

6.AI and Cybersecurity: The Race to Fix Software Vulnerabilities

Source: IE

Why in News?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is accelerating the discovery of software vulnerabilities and the development of exploits, transforming the global cybersecurity landscape. The key challenge is no longer just identifying flaws, but patching them before malicious actors exploit them.

Key Developments

- Faster vulnerability discovery: AI can identify software bugs and help develop exploits within hours, compared with weeks or months previously.
- Critical infrastructure risks: Government websites, digital platforms and essential services face increased exposure to newly discovered vulnerabilities.
- Recent disclosures: The report highlights vulnerabilities involving PHP, LiteLLM, Railway and eMudhra.
- Industry concerns: Cybersecurity firms such as Cloudflare and VulnCheck have highlighted the growing pace of vulnerability discovery and disclosure.

Key Concepts

- Software vulnerability: A weakness in software that can be exploited to compromise confidentiality, integrity or availability.
- Exploit: A technique or code that takes advantage of a vulnerability.
- Zero-day vulnerability: A software flaw for which an effective fix is not yet available or, in common usage, one that is exploited before a patch is available.
- Patch management: Identifying, testing and deploying software updates to fix security weaknesses.

Opportunities and Risks

Opportunities

- Automated code review and vulnerability detection.
- Faster security testing and patch development.

- Improved threat monitoring and incident response.
- Better protection of digital public infrastructure.

Risks

- AI-assisted development of exploits by malicious actors.
- Shorter response windows for cybersecurity teams.
- Increased risk to government portals, financial systems and cloud infrastructure.
- Potential disruption when organisations must urgently patch or temporarily shut down vulnerable systems.

Way Forward

Secure-by-design software: Integrate security throughout the software development lifecycle.

- AI-powered defence: Use automated vulnerability scanning, threat intelligence and continuous monitoring.
- Rapid patching: Prioritise vulnerabilities according to exploitability, severity and potential impact.
- Responsible disclosure: Encourage coordinated reporting between researchers, software developers and affected organisations.
- Cybersecurity capacity: Strengthen skilled personnel, incident-response systems and public-private cooperation.
- Resilience: Maintain backups, recovery plans and tested contingency arrangements for critical systems.

Conclusion

AI is creating a dual-use cybersecurity challenge: the same technology can strengthen digital defences and empower attackers. The decisive factor will be whether organisations can detect, prioritise and remediate vulnerabilities faster than adversaries can exploit them.

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