Highlights of 23 November 2026 Current Affairs

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is likely to launch EPFO 3.0 in February next year to provide universal social security coverage to all formal and informal sector workers. This initiative will enable all categories of workers to make provident fund contributions through a Universal Account Number (UAN).
    - EPFO is a statutory social security organisation under India's Ministry of Labour and Employment. Established in 1952, it manages retirement savings, pension and insurance schemes for salaried workers in India's organised sector.
- The heads of state of the United States, Russia and China met in Shenzhen to pledge their commitment to peace. US President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the trilateral summit in Shenzhen to discuss plans to increase the production and supply of refined petroleum products. This initiative is expected to benefit all nations, as these three countries are among the world's largest producers of refined petroleum products.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has proposed 15 reforms to strengthen India's financial system and support its long-term ambitions. These proposals include establishing a permanent liquidity window for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and expanding priority sector lending to more sectors.
- India and the European Union (EU), a bloc of 27 nations, are set to sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on 16 December during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Brussels, Belgium, where the European Parliament is headquartered.
- Indian-origin leader Navdeep Bains has been elected as the leader of the Ontario Liberal Party in Canada. He previously served as a Canadian minister.
- Mumbai Police has introduced QR code-based identity cards for its personnel to help citizens verify their identities. This initiative comes amid rising cases of cyber fraud and incidents in which impostors posing as Mumbai Police personnel have extorted money from citizens.
    - The cards use Near Field Communication (NFC) technology, allowing citizens to scan them through the Mumbai Police Citizen app. The app provides details such as the police personnel's photograph, name, date of joining and current posting, enabling citizens to verify their authenticity.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah inaugurated the Saryu-Kamala Express, which runs between Ayodhya and Janakpur Dham. Ayodhya is the birthplace of Lord Shri Ram, while Janakpur Dham is the birthplace of Mata Sita. The distance between the two destinations is 604 km, and the train operates weekly.
- The SCO Civilisational Dialogue, held at Purana Qila in New Delhi, issued the Indraprastha Communiqué 2026, which emphasises respect for all civilisations, the protection of cultural heritage and greater international cooperation.
- Lonar Lake has been included in the third list of 100 geological heritage sites recognised by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). It was nominated by the Geological Survey of India.
    - Lonar Lake, located in Maharashtra's Buldhana district, is a saline-alkaline lake that is approximately 12,000 years old.
- Adani Defence & Aerospace has indigenously developed the Bagheera AT1 Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), which is mounted on a vehicle and was showcased at Pokhran,

Rajasthan. The Bagheera AT1 ATGM system has a range of up to 8 km and uses laser guidance, making it effective against tanks and other armoured vehicles.

- In a recent development, the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has found samples of Bisleri drinking water to be unsafe for consumption and recommended prosecution of the packaged drinking water company, **Bisleri International Pvt. Ltd.** The water samples were found to contain bromate and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) above the permissible limits, making the water unsafe for drinking.
- The Ministry of Rural Development will launch the fifth edition of **Nayi Chetna – Pahal Badlav Ki** on 25 November 2026, which marks the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**. The campaign will run from 25 November to 23 December 2026 and will focus on women's economic empowerment, safe mobility, asset ownership and gender equality under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).