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**THE HINDU**



**The Indian EXPRESS**

# **SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EDITORIALS**

**21st May 2026**

## **TOPICS:-**

- 1. The bail rule**  
(GS Paper II Polity)
- 2. Europe's shift to centre of Delhi's frame is welcome**  
(GS Paper II International Relations)
- 3. Keeping exams clean: From Kerala, a personal example**  
(GS Paper II Governance)

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# 1. THE BAIL RULE

*(GS Paper II Polity)*

This editorial ‘**The bail rule**’ was published in **The Hindu** on 21st May 2026, highlights the Supreme Court’s **reaffirmation of personal liberty** and **speedy trial** over stringent UAPA bail restrictions.

## Liberty Versus UAPA Bail Restrictions

- **Justice** demands that accused persons are not kept in indefinite pre-trial custody, even under stringent **UAPA** provisions.
- **Section 43-D(5)** makes bail difficult once a prima facie case exists, but cannot override **personal liberty** indefinitely.
- **Syed Iftikhar Andrabi** received bail after five years and nine months in custody without realistic **trial completion** prospects.
- The Court held that **speedy trial** and personal liberty cannot be subordinated to procedural rigidity under **Section 43-D(5)**.

## Correction of Earlier Judicial Dilution

- The ruling disapproved two-judge Bench decisions in **Gurwinder Singh** and **Gulfisha Fatima** for diluting earlier liberty-based reasoning.
- **K.A. Najeeb** had held that UAPA rigour may “melt down” when trial delay makes **continued incarceration** unreasonable.
- The Court clarified that two-judge Benches could not depart from a binding **three-judge** precedent in **Najeeb**.

## Implications for Pending Bail Cases

- In **Gulfisha Fatima**, Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam were denied bail despite over five years in **pre-trial custody**.
- Andrabi rejects the view that **Najeeb** was fact-specific, strengthening renewed bail claims where prolonged custody defeats **constitutional principles**.
- The judgment challenges the State’s claim that statutory **innocence presumption** is cancelled by UAPA’s stringent bail bar.
- Andrabi is a welcome intervention if applied consistently in long-custody cases, though it does not create a general **UAPA bail** right.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### Balancing National Security with Due Process Safeguards

- **Security-liberty balance:** Anti-terror laws must protect security without making pre-trial custody punitive, as **K.A. Najeeb** reaffirmed liberty.
- **Time-bound trials:** Courts can insist on faster UAPA trials, as **Andrabi** linked prolonged custody with failing justice delivery.
- **Periodic custody review:** Long detention needs regular scrutiny, as **Umar Khalid** and Sharjeel Imam show bail cannot ignore trial progress.
- **Evidence threshold:** Agencies must present credible material beyond broad allegations, as **Vernon Gonsalves** and Arun Ferreira secured bail.
- **Witness protection:** Security concerns can use protected witnesses and sealed records, but **blanket non-disclosure** weakens fair trial rights.
- **Institutional accountability:** Agencies should face consequences for delay, as slow investigation shifts **state inefficiency** onto undertrials.
- **Constitutional legitimacy:** A fair anti-terror regime gains trust when firm enforcement follows **Article 21** and binding judicial precedent.

## 2. EUROPE'S SHIFT TO CENTRE OF DELHI'S FRAME IS WELCOME

*(GS Paper II International Relations)*

This editorial 'Europe's shift to centre of Delhi's frame is welcome' was published in **The Indian Express** on 21st May 2026, highlights Europe's **growing centrality** in India's foreign policy amid geopolitical realignments and strategic uncertainty.

### Europe's Rising Place in India's Strategic Outlook

- PM Modi's Europe tour reflects India's shift from **Cold War** neglect to deeper **strategic cooperation** with key European states.
- India's earlier Europe policy was shaped by Soviet ties and western rivalry, but **traditional alignments** now face geopolitical strain.
- The **India-EFTA** agreement and expanding Europe outreach show Delhi's search for markets, capital, technology and green partnerships.
- Europe is entering India's **strategic imagination** despite Ukraine-related friction, U.S. unpredictability, Russia-China closeness and U.S.-China détente.

## Economic, Technology and Defence Convergences

- Europe is crucial for India's export markets and capital needs, especially in advanced technology and green-energy collaboration.
- The Netherlands matters because ASML dominates advanced lithography machines vital for cutting-edge semiconductors.
- The ASML-Tata Electronics deal can support Tata's Dholera fabrication plant, strengthening India's chip-manufacturing ambitions.
- India seeks European support for defence diversification away from Russia and renewable-energy expansion through technology and capital.
- Europe offers opportunities for India's youth diaspora, as skilled workers and students increasingly expand across the continent.
- For Europe, India is a critical partner for de-risking from China and widening strategic-economic alternatives.

## Sub-Regional Engagement and Foreign Policy Rebalancing

- The **EU bloc** has 27 states, but each country retains distinct strategic priorities, requiring differentiated Indian engagement.
- India already has strong ties with **France**, Germany and the Netherlands, while deepening Nordic and Italy-linked Indo-Mediterranean engagement.
- Europe's sub-regions differ sharply in external-power perceptions, so India must build **cross-linkages** for mutual gains.
- With geopolitical realignments and weakened **international institutions**, Europe can no longer remain peripheral to India's foreign policy.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### India-Europe Partnership as a Pillar of Strategic Autonomy

- **Strategic diversification:** Stronger Europe ties, including **India-EFTA TEPA**, reduce bloc dependence while preserving strategic autonomy.
- **Technology security:** European strengths in semiconductors can support India's resilience, as **ASML-Tata** cooperation shows in Dholera.
- **Defence rebalancing:** India-France defence ties, including **Rafale-Marine**, widen choices as India reduces legacy Russian dependence.
- **Green transition:** EU climate cooperation can support India's clean-energy shift through **green hydrogen**, renewables and finance.

- **Trade leverage:** Deeper Europe trade can expand exports, but **CBAM** needs negotiation to protect Indian industry.
- **Connectivity diplomacy:** **IMEC** can strengthen India-Europe supply chains while reducing dependence on vulnerable routes.
- **People-centric ties:** Student mobility and skilled migration can deepen ties, as expanding **Indian diaspora** networks show.

### 3. KEEPING EXAMS CLEAN: FROM KERALA, A PERSONAL EXAMPLE

*(GS Paper II Governance)*

This editorial ‘**Keeping exams clean: From Kerala, a personal example**’ was published in **The Indian Express** on 21st May 2026, highlights how strict **secrecy**, **administrative accountability** and **digital safeguards** can protect entrance examinations from leaks and manipulation.

#### **Exam Integrity Through Centralised Accountability**

- Kerala’s entrance exams earlier faced **delayed results** and court-driven revaluation due to recurring **question disputes**.
- As **Commissioner**, the author centralised responsibility by personally controlling question-setter identity and printing locations.
- Three **question-paper sets** were prepared through confidential travel, personal collection and expert revalidation without emails or couriers.
- Printing used secret travel plans, sealed custody and late movement under **District Collector** supervision with **police protection**.

#### **Procedural Safeguards and Result Security**

- The author made **OMR sheets** tearable, separating candidate identity from answer data to prevent score manipulation.
- Part B contained scores, while Part A carried candidate details, ensuring no official knew the candidate-score **mapping**.
- Personal matching of Part A and Part B ensured results were declared within an hour without office-level **manual interference**.
- Results were declared by the seventh day, reversing Kerala’s earlier delays and earning public **administrative credibility**.

## Lessons for Digital-Age Examination Governance

- The system showed that strong **process design** can protect high-stakes exams even with lakhs of candidates.
- The author contrasts this with **NTA** delays, arguing that digital tools make clean exams easier, not harder.
- Kerala's model stresses secrecy, decentralised custody and final-stage **human accountability** over routine bureaucratic handling.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### Institutional Reform Beyond Individual Integrity

- **Systemic safeguards:** Clean exams need institutional design, not individual vigilance, as Kerala's CEE model showed.
- **Legal deterrence:** Strict penalties under the **Public Examinations Act, 2024** can make paper leaks high-risk offences.
- **Independent audit:** Question-setting, transport and result systems need audits, as **NEET-UG 2024** exposed integrity gaps.
- **Digital protection:** Encryption, access logs and tamper-proof servers can reduce leaks, but **NTA** showed technology needs accountability.
- **Grievance redressal:** Time-bound complaint systems can prevent court delays, as **CUET** and **NEET** disputes showed.
- **Whistle-blower channels:** Secure reporting can expose collusion early, as **Vyapam** showed insider fraud risks.
- **Public trust:** Transparent SOPs and predictable timelines restore credibility after failures like **NEET-UG 2024** controversies.