Geography · GS - IV

What do you understand by probity in governance? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2019	GS - IV	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Integrity; honesty; ethical conduct; transparency; accountability; conflict-of-interest management; audits; whistle-blower protection; citizen oversight

Model Answer

Introduction

Probity in governance means adherence to the highest standards of honesty, integrity, impartiality and ethical conduct in public decision-making. It ensures that public power and resources are used for legitimate public purposes.

Measures for Ensuring Probity

1. Ethical Leadership

Senior officials and political executives should set an example through honest conduct and zero tolerance for corruption.

2. Transparency

Proactive disclosure, accessible public records, open procurement and clear decision-making procedures reduce opportunities for arbitrary action.

3. Accountability Mechanisms

Independent audits, legislative oversight, vigilance bodies and effective disciplinary procedures help detect and deter misconduct.

4. Conflict-of-Interest Rules

Officials should disclose relevant interests and recuse themselves where personal considerations could compromise impartiality.

5. E-Governance

Digital payments, e-procurement and traceable administrative records can reduce discretion and improve auditability.

6. Protection for Whistle-blowers

Secure reporting channels and protection against retaliation encourage the disclosure of wrongdoing.

7. Citizen Participation

Social audits, public hearings and accessible grievance mechanisms allow citizens to monitor public programmes.

8. Ethical Capacity-Building

Regular training in integrity, impartiality and public-service values helps officials navigate difficult decisions.

Conclusion

Probity requires both individual character and strong institutions. A combination of ethical leadership, transparent processes and credible accountability can strengthen public trust and the legitimacy of government.

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