Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

‘Probity is essential for an effective system of governance and socio-economic development.’ Discuss.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2023	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Probity means uprightness, integrity and adherence to ethical standards in public life. It builds trust, prevents misuse of public resources, improves institutional credibility and ensures that development benefits are delivered fairly and efficiently.

Model Answer

Introduction:

Probity in governance means **integrity, honesty, transparency and adherence to public-interest standards** while exercising public authority. It is fundamental to both effective administration and equitable development.

Importance in Governance:

Probity reduces corruption, nepotism and conflicts of interest. Transparent procurement and objective decision-making ensure that public resources are used for intended purposes. It also strengthens citizens' trust in institutions.

Role in Socio-economic Development:

When public expenditure is honestly managed, greater resources reach health, education, infrastructure and welfare programmes. Probity also improves the investment climate by creating predictable and trustworthy institutions.

For example, transparent public procurement can reduce inflated costs and ensure better-quality infrastructure. Similarly, accountable implementation of welfare schemes improves their reach to vulnerable groups.

Challenges:

Political interference, opacity, weak accountability and normalisation of unethical practices can undermine probity.

Conclusion:

Probity converts public power into **public value**. Strong transparency mechanisms, ethical leadership, social audits, vigilance institutions and protection for whistle-blowers can make probity an institutional culture rather than merely an individual virtue.

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