Mains Practice Question

Q. 'Probity is essential for an effective system of government and socio-economic development.' Discuss. (Answer in 150 words, UPSC Mains 2023)

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Approach

- Begin by defining probity and its significance for good governance.
- Discuss how probity in governance affects various aspects of socio-economic development.
- Conclude by emphasizing the importance of probity for good governance.

Introduction

Probity means adherence to the highest principles and ideals. It is the foundation of moral principles like honesty and integrity. It's crucial for good governance and socio-economic progress, as it ensures officials prioritize the public, adhere to the law, and uphold transparency and accountability.

Body

Probity in governance affects various aspects of socio-economic development:

- **Resource allocation:** Probity in governance means efficient and corruption-free resource allocation.
- **Promotes competition:** Probity fosters innovation and fair competition, eliminating cronyism, nepotism, and favoritism for an equitable economy.
- **Equity:** It ensures fair, impartial policies, respecting all citizens, especially the marginalized.
- **Reduces inequalities:** Probity reduces inequality by preventing public officials from using their power for personal gain.
- **Inclusion:** It ensures that public services and facilities are accessible and affordable to all citizens, without any discrimination or exclusion.
- **Sustainability:** Probity in governance means making decisions that consider environmental, social, and economic sustainability for both current and future generations.
- **Enhances resilience:** It boosts society's resilience by preparing officials to handle natural disasters, climate change, and pandemics effectively.

Conclusion

Probity in governance is vital for effective government, trust, transparency, and societal progress. All stakeholders, including officials, civil society, media, and citizens, should promote and protect it.