

## What do you mean by Probity in Governance? Illustrate by giving examples.

### Approach

1. Define probity.
2. Explain how probity is reflected in governance with examples.
3. Conclude appropriately.

### Solution

Derived from the Latin word probus, probity refers to the quality of uprightness, having strong moral principles, integrity, compassion, honesty and decency at all times.

**Probity is a necessary and vital requirement for effective governance, as illustrated below**

1. Probity is the bedrock of an honest and efficient administration system. And an honest official will avoid corrupt or dishonest practices at all times.  
E.g., not taking bribe even when faced with adverse consequences.
2. Probity helps to ensure impartiality as it requires one to uphold the principle of “equality before the law”.  
E.g., clearing file that seeks interest for a common citizen or a mighty politician is the same for the civil servant.
3. Probity establishes integrity since the holders of public office will not place themselves under any obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.  
E.g., not towing the line of the political master blindly.
4. Probity makes the holders of public office accountable for their decisions and actions to the public since they are ready to submit themselves to public scrutiny.  
E.g., a railway minister holding himself accountable for repeated rail accidents.
5. Probity demands transparency thus it makes certain that officers are as open as possible about the decisions and actions that they take.  
E.g., Jan Sunwai in Haryana.
6. Probity warrants dedication to one’s duty thus helps in catering the needs of all sections of the society with compassion.  
E.g., Covid warriors who served the nation despite challenging circumstances.

Given its critical role in governance, the Second Administrative Reforms Commission report stated that, in addition to traditional civil service values such as efficiency and patriotism, civil servants must instil and adopt ethical and moral values such as probity in public life.