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Q5(e)**How do different theories explain social dimensions of social movements? Discuss.**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2026 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Stratification and Mobility: Concepts

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Stratification and Mobility: Concepts - equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation; Theories of social stratification - Structural functionalist, Marxist, Weberian; Dimensions - Class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race; Social mobility - open and closed systems, types, sources and causes.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round.

Structural Strain Theory (Smelser)

Posits a six-stage value-added model explaining how structural conduciveness and strain culminate in collective action.

Resource Mobilization Theory (McCarthy and Zald)

Emphasises the central role of resources, formal organisations, and elite sponsorship in the success of social movements.

Logic of Collective Action (Olson)

Demonstrates that rational individuals often do not participate in large-scale movements without selective incentives due to the free-rider problem.

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