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Q5(e)**Bring out the debates of 'insiders' and 'outsiders' approaches in understanding Indian society.**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2026 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Perspectives on the study of Indian society

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Perspectives on the study of Indian society: Indology (G.S. Ghurye); Structural functionalism (M.N. Srinivas); Marxist sociology (A.R. Desai).

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

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

G.S. Ghurye

Pioneer of Indian sociology who utilized indological and historical approaches to study caste, gotra, and kinship.

Louis Dumont

French sociologist who authored 'Homo Hierarchicus', championing the structuralist outsider approach centered on the ideology of purity and pollution.

M.N. Srinivas

Indian sociologist who introduced field-view alongside book-view, bridging textual indology with empirical village studies.

McKim Marriott

American anthropologist who introduced transactional and indigenous ethnosociological models like 'dividual' persons and actor-oriented transaction.

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