1. Discuss the features of new social movements.

Ans: Following are the features of the social movement:
1. Collective Action: Social movement undoubtedly involves collective action. However, this collective action, takes the form of a movement only when it is sustained for a long time. This collective action need not be formally organised. It could be an informal attempt also. But it should be able to create an interest and awakening in relatively large number of people.
2. Oriented Towards Social Change: A social movement is generally oriented towards bringing about social change. This change could either be partial or total. Though the movement is aimed at bringing about a change in the values, norms, ideologies of the existing system, efforts are also made by some other forces to resist the changes and to maintain the status quo.
3. Ideology Behind the Movement: An important component of social movement that distinguishes it from the general category of collective mobilization is the presence of an ideology.
4. Organizational Framework: As Paul Wilkinson has pointed out that a social movement requires a minimum of organisational framework to achieve success or at least to maintain the tempo of the movement. To make the distinction clear between the leaders and followers, to make clear the purposes of the movement, to persuade people to take part in it or to support it, to adopt different techniques to achieve the goals—a social movement must have some amount of organisational framework.
5. The Techniques and Results: A social movement may adopt its own technique or method to achieve its goal. There is no certainty regarding it. It may follow peaceful or conflicting, violent or non-violent, compulsive or persuasive, democratic or undemocratic means or methods to reach its goal.

The same thing is true of the results. It may become successful or it may fail; it may become partial success or at least it may create a general awakening in the public regarding an issue. The result of a movement has a close bearing on the ideology and the organisational framework.

2. Critically evaluate the Gandhian approach to social movements.

Ans: Social movements without define political ideology and broad based popular support is bound to fail. This idea is very much reflected in Gandhian movement. The entire Indian freedom struggle and related movement led by Mohandas Gandhi was based on a central theme that ‘social movement has its inherent power and weakness’, unless you realise it and have capacity to exploit it with definite idea your are bound to fail. His philosophy of social cum political movement had its own balancing factors. During entire movement, on many occasions he called off or gave halt to his movement whenever he realised that probably, either his movement is going in wrong direction or people are yet not ready to take these movements in their own hands.

Mohandas was sure about capacity of people in giving leadership to these social movements but was not sure about its timing. It was only 1942 when he became sure that his job of giving training to Indians regarding how to lead social movement is complete and now they can discharge their burden; he give final say.. ‘Karo ya maro’...!

Modern days social movements such as movement led by Anna Hazare, Arvind Kejriwal etc. and latter on Baba Ram Dev has clearly re-establishes and redefines the very strength of social cum political movements. In fact, these movements have one more advantage of being more connected to people through modern age technologies including huge media, print and electronic both and sea of world information i.e. Internet. The capacity and strength is also established by successful social-cum-political movements at some other small countries in west and central Asia.

To make any remark on future of Indian social movement would always be pre-mature and possibility of its being proven untrue is very much high. However, with comparison of Gandhian philosophy and his model of successful social movement during British India would be guideline to examine future of these movements. Let see some contrasts:
- Unlike Gandhian movement, these movements are not having any definite political alternative. Gandhi was having political alternative in the form of bringing native government with huge sense of pride and confidence.
- Unlike Gandhian movement, these new age movements are not having popular broad base. These movements are highly centralised metro or mega cities and never piercing into deep rural hinterland.
- Unlike Gandhian philosophy of mixing political movements with social reforms, these new age movements are not concentrating much on social reform. They are more interested in overthrowing one government or preferring one political party over other. This process will ultimately end up in political divisions of masses than social unity.
- Unlike Gandhian movement, these movements till date failed to provide any peace-time alternative agenda. This alternative agenda such as social movements against untouchability etc. had given Gandhian movements much wanted ‘cooling’ period.
- Lastly, unlike Gandhian movement, these movements shaped themselves into such a manner that right from very beginning their looks like middle class social movement than ‘classless agitation’ against given political system.

3. Write an essay on the idea of social transformation after independence.

Ans: The strategy of social change after independence underwent fundamental changes. The State took the responsibility of conscious planning of social transformation its objectives were the creation of a society based on democratic political participation, social justice and cultural and religious pluralism within the framework of a secular State. A policy framework was introduced which meant the abolition of age-old principles of inter-structural autonomy in the Indian Society.

The principles of inequality based on caste, birth, religion and sex were in normative sense, derecognized if not successfully abolished. In some areas, the policy of change began to show immediate results. These were electoral politics, industrial and economic