

Reach for the Top

Chapter Sketch

The chapter 'Reach for the Top' is a story of two women who conquered the world despite obstacles and become the role model of youths.

Part-I is about Santosh Yadav, the only daughter after five sons. She is the only woman mountaineer who has been able to climb Mt Everest twice. She has been able to save one mountaineer's life by sharing her oxygen with him. Moreover, she is an environmentalist also as she has collected and brought down 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas.

Part-II is about Maria Sharapova who attained the number one position in women's tennis when she was hardly 18. Her story reveals her firm determination and mental toughness which helped her to reach the top. Hard work is her 'Mantra for Success'.

About the Characters

Part-I

Santosh Yadav The only woman mountaineer in the world who has scaled Mt Everest twice. In recognition of her achievements, one of the top honours, the Padmashri, was given to her.

Part-II

Maria Sharapova She has been the brightest star of tennis. She also became the world's number one ranked player in 2005. She is a style-icon and famous not only for her movie-star looks but also for her powerful serve. She loves singing, eating chocolate pancakes, drink orange drinks, dancing and reading novels of Arthur Conan Doyle.

PART I Santosh Yadav

Santosh's Early Life

Santosh was born in a small village named Joniyawas of Rewari district in Haryana. In her village, birth of a girl child was not welcomed. Before her birth, a 'holy man' was about to give her mother the blessing of a son but her grandmother insisted that they wanted a daughter. Santosh is the only sister to her five brothers. Her family named her 'Santosh' as it means contentment which shows their happiness on her birth.

Santosh was not like the other village girls in her childhood. She wore shorts while other girls in her village wore traditional Indian dresses. At sixteen, most of the girls in her village used to get married, but she refused to get married and wanted to study.

Santosh's Education

Despite being rich, her parents sent her to the village school. She decided to fight the system so she enrolled herself in a school in Delhi against her parents' wishes. She went to Jaipur for higher studies after completing her schooling.

Santosh's Dream of Mountaineering

As Santosh's hostel room in Jaipur faced the Aravalli Hills, she used to watch people climbing the hill. She got curious and went to meet the mountaineers one day. She asked them if she could join them. They agreed and encouraged her to take mountaineering. She enrolled herself in a course at Uttarkashi's Nehru Institute of Mountaineering and then she didn't look back. She informed her parents about this and apologised to them for taking admission without their permission.

Santosh as Remarkable Climber

Santosh went for an expedition every year and developed a remarkable resistance to cold and the altitude. Her determination and strong will power helped her a lot. She had physical stamina and mental toughness which were most necessary for climbing.

Santosh's Dream Comes True

Conquering Mt Everest is a dream that every climber wishes to fulfil. Santosh achieved this success in 1992 when she was only 20 years old. She became the youngest woman in the world to climb Mt Everest. Within a year, she scaled Mt Everest again and became the only woman mountaineer in the world to climb Mt Everest twice. She also saved the life of Mohan Singh who was her fellow climber.

Santosh as True Environmentalist

Santosh shares her feeling of hoisting the national flag on the top of the world. She says that unfurling Indian tricolour on the Everest was a proud, spiritual and undescrivable moment for her. She collected and brought down 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas.

Honour by the Indian Government

Santosh Yadav was honoured with one of the top awards, the *Padmashri* in recognition of her achievements, by the Government of India.

PART II Maria Sharapova

Maria Sharapova Attains Top Position in World Tennis

Maria Sharapova, a teen sensation, attained the number one position in world women's tennis on 22nd August, 2005. She took only four years to achieve her dream. The journey actually started nine years ago when she was sent to America for her formal training.

Maria's Training in America

Maria was born in Siberia, Russia but Maria's father Yuri took her to America for training as a tennis professional. She was separated from her mother for almost two years when she was not even 10 years old. Her father earned as much as he could to keep her tennis training going.

Maria's Tough Times Make her Strong

Maria felt lonely and missed her mother badly. The other athletes made her to tidy up the room and clean it. The tough time made her strong and determined. She also learnt how to take care of herself. Her motto was to work hard to fulfil her desires.

Maria as a True Patriot

Maria lives in America but she still calls herself a Russian. However, the United States is a big part of her life but at heart, she is a Russian. She dreams of playing Olympics for Russia if they allow her to play. It clearly shows that she is a true patriot.

Hobbies and Interests of Maria

Maria's hobbies are singing and dancing. She reads Arthur Conan Doyle's novels. She has a great sense of fashion. She is fond of pancakes with chocolate and orange drinks.

She finds money as motivation but she dreams to become number one in the world and this dream keeps her going.

» Chapter Highlights

Part I Santosh Yadav

- 1 Santosh Yadav was born in a small village named Joniyawas of Rewari, Haryana.
- 2 She was the only sister of five elder brothers.
- 3 She was a rebel and didn't want to live like other girls of her village.
- 4 She wanted to study and took admission in a school in Delhi against her parents' wish.
- 5 She went to Jaipur for higher education.
- 6 She enrolled herself in Uttarkashi's Nehru Institute of Mountaineering without taking permission from her parents.
- 7 At the age of twenty years, Santosh Yadav scaled Mt Everest and became the youngest woman to climb it.
- 8 Within a year, she climbed Mt Everest again and became the only woman in the world to achieve this feat.
- 9 She saved a fellow climber's life while climbing Mt Everest by sharing her oxygen.
- 10 She collected and brought down 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas.
- 11 She was honoured with one of the top civilian awards of India, the *Padmashri* for her achievement.

Part II Maria Sharapova

- 1 At the age of eighteen, Maria Sharapova became world number one in women's tennis.
- 2 She won the women's singles crown at Wimbledon in 2004 and became the number one in 2005.
- 3 She was only nine-year old when her father took her to America for tennis training.
- 4 Her father worked hard and earned as much as he could to keep her tennis training going.
- 5 She felt lonely and was ordered to tidy up the room and clean it by other athletes.
- 6 She is very patriotic at heart and calls herself a true Russian.
- 7 She loves singing, dancing and reading novels of Arthur Conan Doyle.
- 8 She has a great fashion-sense.
- 9 She calls money a motivation; and tennis, a business and a sport.
- 10 She wants to become world's number one player.

Word Meanings

The given page numbers correspond to the pages in the prescribed textbook.

Part I Santosh Yadav

Word	Meaning
PAGE 99	
idolise	admire greatly
admire	to regard with respect or warm approval
achievements	accomplishments
sphere	particular field of activity
scaled	climbed
considered	viewed
curse	a cause of trouble or bad luck
expecting	hoping
assumed	supposed
holy man	sage/saint
destiny	fate
PAGE 100	
contentment	satisfaction
traditional	long-established
preferred	like one thing or person better than others
determined	full of determination
rational	logical or based on reason
affluent	rich
afford	have enough money to pay for
prevailing	existing at a particular time

Word	Meaning
threatened	to take hostile action
enrolled	registered
politely	humbly
urge	persuade
PAGE 101	
vanishing	disappearing
motivated	encouraged
semester	an academic session
headed	went
straight	directly
apology	an expression of regret for an error
expedition	an organised journey for a specific purpose
rapidly	quickly
remarkable	noteworthy
resistance	opposition, the capacity to withstand something
altitude	great height or elevation
equipped with	having
iron will	strong desire
endurance	capacity to bear
amazing	causing great surprise or wonder
culmination	summit, climax
shyly	timidly
barely	hardly
feat	a notable act
concern	worry
PAGE 102	
mission	expedition, trip
provided	gave
col	a pass between two mountain peaks or a gap in a ridge
unique	extraordinary, being the only one of its kind
annals	historical records
bestowed	present an award, title, etc
literally	simply
enormity	greatness
sink in	be understood
unfurled	spread or opened (a flag), hoisted
aloft	in the air
indescribable	which can't be described
spiritual	sacred, concerned with the soul
fervent	having strong and sincere feelings
environmentalist	one who takes care of the environment
collected	gathered
garbage	rubbish

Part II Maria Sharapova

Word	Meaning
PAGE 104	
summit	the highest level; top
disarming	tending to remove feelings of unfriendliness or distrust
at odds	strange
glamorous	very exciting and attractive
attire	clothes
lifted	raised
poised	self-assured; dignified
professional	paid to participate in a sport
pinnacle	top; the highest point of success
PAGE 105	
rapid	acting or moving quickly; fast
ascent	the act of ascending; climbing
fiercely	ferocious and powerful
competitive	having strong desire to win or be the best at something
endure	tolerate; suffer
launched	started
stardom	the state of being very famous performer
heart wrenching	causing great sadness
separation	a gap; point of parting
latter	being the second of two persons or things
compelled	forced
restrictions	limitations
excellence	the quality of being outstanding or extremely good
recalls	remembers; recollects
terribly	extremely; very much
PAGE 106	
tidy up	put things in order
depress	make gloomy; deject

Word	Meaning
quitting	leaving
put up	faced
humiliation	insult
steadfastly	firm in purpose
pursue	to follow
bagging	winning
meteoric	very sudden or fast
sentiment	emotion, feeling
straight	direct
ambition	goal
amply	more than enough
sacrifices	acts of offering something or giving up something to achieve something else or to help someone
accent	way of speaking
parades	shows
sensations	greatly successful personalities
pondness	having a strong liking
sophisticated	refined and cultured
pancake	a dish
fizzy	an effervescent beverage
pigeon-holed	put in small holes; categorise
categorised	arranged into categories or classes
talent	a special ability to do something well
unwavering	not shaking; resolute
grudge	to dislike or feel angry towards someone for something
PAGE 107	
reaping	obtaining
monetary	related to money
motivation	a force or influence that causes someone to do something

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NCERT FOLDER

(Here we have covered questions given in the NCERT textbook along with their answers.)

Part I Santosh Yadav

Thinking about the Text (Page 102)

I. Answer these questions in one or two sentences each.

1 Why was the 'holy man', who gave Santosh's mother his blessing, surprised?

Ans. The 'holy man' was surprised because Santosh's grandmother told him that they did not want a son. They wanted a daughter. This was totally against a traditional society.

2 Give an example to show that even as a young girl Santosh was not ready to accept anything unreasonable.

Ans. Even as a young girl, Santosh was not ready to accept anything unreasonable. Other girls in the village wore traditional Indian dresses but Santosh preferred shorts.

3 Why was Santosh sent to the local village school?

Ans. Santosh was sent to the local village school due to the prevailing custom in the family.

4 When did she leave home for Delhi and why?

Ans. When Santosh turned sixteen, her parents wanted her to get married. Santosh threatened her parents that she would never marry if she did not get proper education. Therefore, she left home to study at a school in Delhi.

5 Why did Santosh's parents agree to pay for her schooling in Delhi? What mental qualities of Santosh are brought into light by this incident?

Ans. Santosh's parents agreed to pay for her education as she informed them that she would earn money by working part time and pay her school fees. This shows that Santosh was determined to achieve her goal.

II. Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (about 30 words).

1 How did Santosh begin to climb mountains?

Ans. When Santosh was in Jaipur for her higher studies, she watched people from her room in Kasturba Hostel going up the Aravalli Hills and vanishing

after a while. She was curious. She went there and found certain mountaineers. They encouraged her to take up climbing. This was how she began climbing mountains.

2 What incidents during the Everest expedition show Santosh's concern for her team-mates?

Ans. During the Everest mission, Santosh helped a dying climber but she was unsuccessful in saving him. Another climber, Mohan Singh, would surely have died if Santosh hadn't shared her oxygen with him. These incidents show her concern for her team-mates.

3 What shows her concern for the environment?

Ans. Santosh was a fervent environmentalist. While on the Everest mission, she collected and brought down 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas.

4 How does she describe her feelings at the summit of the Everest?

Ans. Santosh said that the feeling at the summit of the Everest was indescribable and it took some moments to sink in. Hoisting the Indian flag was a spiritual moment for her and she felt proud as an Indian.

5 Santosh Yadav got into the record books both times she scaled Mt Everest. What were the reasons for this?

Ans. When Santosh Yadav first scaled Mt Everest, she became the youngest woman in the world to achieve the feat. The second time, she became the only woman to have conquered the Everest twice.

III. Complete the following statements.

1 From her room in Kasturba Hostel, Santosh used to

Ans. From her room in Kasturba Hostel, Santosh used to watch villagers going up the Aravalli hills and suddenly vanishing after a while.

2 When she finished college, Santosh had to write a letter of apology to her father because

Ans. When she finished college, Santosh had to write a letter of apology to her father because she had got herself enrolled at Uttarkashi's Nehru Institute of Mountaineering without his permission.

- 3 During the Everest expedition, her seniors in the team admired her while endeared her to fellow climbers.

Ans. During the Everest expedition, her seniors in the team admired her climbing skills, physical fitness and mental strength while her concern for others and desire to work together with them endeared her to fellow climbers.

- IV. Pick out words from the text that mean the same as the following words or expressions.

- 1 Took to be true without proof

Ans. Assumed

- 2 Based on reason; sensible; reasonable

Ans. Rational

- 3 The usual way of doing things

Ans. Custom

- 4 A strong desire arising from within

Ans. Urge

- 5 The power to endure without falling ill

Ans. Resistance

Part II Maria Sharapova

Before You Read (Page 104)

- 1 Match the following

Something disarming	Quickly, almost immediately
At odds with	More calm, confident and in control than people of her age usually are
Glamorous attire	In contrast to ; not agreeing with
In almost no time	Something that makes you feel friendly, taking away your suspiciousness

Poised beyond her years	Sent off
Packed off	Attractive and exciting clothes
Launched	Causing strong feelings of sadness
Heart wrenching	Started

Ans.

Something disarming	Something that makes you feel friendly, taking away your suspiciousness
At odds with	In contrast to ; not agreeing with
Glamorous attire	Attractive and exciting clothes
In almost no time	Quickly, almost immediately
Poised beyond her years	More calm, confident and in control than people of her age usually are
Packed off	Sent off
Launched	Started
Heart wrenching	Causing strong feelings of sadness

- 2 As you read, look for the answers to these questions

- Why was Maria sent to the United States?
- Why didn't her mother go with her?
- What are her hobbies? What does she like?
- What motivates her to keep going?

- Ans.**
- Maria was sent to the United States for her tennis training.
 - Her mother could not go with her because of visa restrictions.
 - Her hobbies are fashion, singing and dancing. She likes reading the novels of Arthur Conan Doyle. She is also fond of sophisticated evening gowns, pancakes with chocolate spread and fizzy orange drinks.
 - Apart from money, the motivation to become the number one in the world keeps her going.

Thinking about the Text (Page 107)

Working in small groups of 4-5 students, go back over the two passages on Santosh Yadav and Maria Sharapova and complete the table given below with relevant phrases or sentences.

Points of Comparison / Contrast	Santosh Yadav	Maria Sharapova
1. Their humble beginning	She was born in the small village of Joniyawas of Rewari District in Haryana, India.	She was born in the frozen plains of Siberia, Russia.
2. Their parents' approach	Her parents disapproved of her going to Delhi for a better education. Eventually, they agreed to fulfil her demands.	Her father worked as much as he could to keep her tennis training going and took her to the United States so that she could get the best training.
3. Their will power and strong desire to succeed	Her education was a struggle. She enrolled herself in a mountaineering institute and finally due to her determination, scaled Mt Everest, not once but twice.	She never thought of quitting even in the most difficult circumstances. Her will to become number one kept her going.
4. Evidence of their mental toughness	In addition to her struggle to get a proper education and scaling the Mt Everest twice, she also saved the life of a fellow climber by sharing her oxygen with her.	She was young and pretty much lonely in the US as her mother could not accompany her. She was ill-treated by other athletes there. This didn't depress her but toughened her mentally.
5. Their patriotism	When she unfurled the tricolour on the roof of the world, her feelings were indescribable. It was a spiritual moment for her. She felt proud as an Indian.	Maria says that though she has spent a long time in the US, she has a Russian citizenship and her blood is totally Russian. She wants to represent Russia in the Olympics.

Thinking about Language (Page 107)

- I. Identify the two parts in the sentences below by underlining the part that gives us the information in brackets.

- 1 Where other girls wore traditional Indian dresses, Santosh preferred shorts. (Contrasts her dress with that of others)

Ans. Where other girls wore traditional Indian dresses, Santosh preferred shorts.

- 2 She left home and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi. (Tells us what happened after the first action.)

Ans. She left home and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi.

- 3 She decided to fight the system when the right moment arrived. (Tells us when she was going to fight the system.)

Ans. She decided to fight the system when the right moment arrived.

- 4 Little Maria had not yet celebrated her tenth birthday when she was packed off to train in the United States. (Tells us when Maria was sent to the US).

Ans. Little Maria had not yet celebrated her tenth birthday when she was packed off to train in the United States.

- II. Now rewrite the pairs of sentences given below as one sentence

- 1 Grandfather told me about the old days. All books were printed on paper then.

Ans. Grandfather told me about the old days when all books were printed on paper.

- 2 What do you do after you finish the book? Perhaps you just throw it away.

Ans. After finishing the book, perhaps you just throw it away.

- 3 He gave the little girl an apple. He took the computer apart.

Ans. After giving the little girl an apple, he took the computer apart.

- 4 You have nothing. That makes you very determined.

Ans. Having nothing makes you very determined.

- 5 I never thought of quitting. I knew what I wanted.

Ans. I never thought of quitting as I knew what I wanted.

Exam Practice

Part I Santosh Yadav

Extract Based Questions

[4 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and choose the correct option.

1 But, to everyone's surprise, the unborn child's grandmother, who was standing close by, told him that they did not want a son. The 'holy man' was also surprised ! Nevertheless, he gave the requested blessing ... and as destiny would have it, the blessing seemed to work. Santosh was born the sixth child in a family with five sons, a sister to five brothers. She was born in the small village of Joniyawas of Rewari District in Haryana.

- (i) What did grandmother wish for?
(a) Twins boys (b) A girl child
(c) Peace in the house (d) Lots of money
- (ii) How can we say that holy man's blessings worked?
(a) Lots of money came
(b) Everyone was happy
(c) A girl child was born
(d) Grandmother was at peace
- (iii) Where was Santosh born?
(a) In a big city
(b) On the railway platform
(c) In a small village
(d) In the hospital
- (iv) Find a word from the extract which means 'fate'.
(a) Surprise (b) Wish
(c) Destiny (d) Blessing

- Ans. (i) (b) A girl child
(ii) (c) A girl child was born
(iii) (c) In a small village
(iv) (c) Destiny

2 Santosh's parents were affluent landowners who could afford to send their children to the best schools, even to the country's capital, New Delhi, which was quite close by. But, in line with the prevailing custom in the family, Santosh had to make do with the local village school.
So, she decided to fight the system in her own quiet way when the right moment arrived. And the right moment came when she turned sixteen. At sixteen, most of the girls in her village used to get married.

- (i) Why was Santosh not sent to a good school in city?
(a) They had no money
(b) No one lived in the city
(c) Due to customs
(d) Santosh was not willing
- (ii) What was the position of Santosh's parents in the village?
(a) They were landowners
(b) They were poor
(c) They were rich
(d) Both 'a' and 'c'
- (iii) Which word from the passage will be antonym of the word 'destitute'?
(a) Penniless (b) Needy
(c) Affluent (d) Upscale
- (iv) What did Santosh decide about her education?
(a) To do according to parents
(b) Follow the system
(c) To fight the system
(d) Run away from the house

- Ans. (i) (c) Due to customs
(ii) (d) Both 'a' and 'c'
(iii) (c) Affluent
(iv) (c) To fight the system

3 "My college semester in Jaipur was to end in April but it ended on the nineteenth of May. And I was supposed to be in Uttarkashi on the twenty-first. So, I did not go back home; instead, I headed straight for the training. I had to write a letter of apology to my father without whose permission I had got myself enrolled at Uttarkashi."

- (i) Why Santosh had gone to Jaipur?
(a) To visit the city
(b) To meet relatives
(c) To get college education
(d) To meet her friends
- (ii) Why was she supposed to be in Uttarkashi?
(a) To attend a seminar
(b) To attend college fest
(c) To visit the town
(d) To attend mountaineering course

- (iii) Why did Santosh write an apology letter to her father?
 (a) For not returning to village
 (b) For getting more education
 (c) Refusing to get married
 (d) For not taking permission
- (iv) Which word in the passage will mean the same as 'in place of'?
 (a) Rather than (b) Instead
 (c) Alternately (d) Supposed

Ans. (i) (c) To get college education
 (ii) (d) To attend mountaineering course
 (iii) (d) For not taking permission
 (iv) (b) Instead

- 4** She then scaled the Everest a second time, thus setting a record as the only woman to have scaled the Everest twice, and securing for herself and India a unique place in the annals of mountaineering. In recognition of her achievements, the Indian government bestowed upon her one of the nation's top honours, the *Padmashri*.

- (i) What world record does Santosh Yadav hold?
 (a) Only woman to climb Everest twice in one year
 (b) To top the mountaineering course
 (c) First woman from Haryana
 (d) First journey to Everest
- (ii) What physical qualities did Santosh Yadav possess?
 (a) Iron will (b) Physical endurance
 (c) Mental toughness (d) All of these
- (iii) Why did Santosh found a special place in the hearts of fellow climbers?
 (a) Physical fitness
 (b) Her sense of humour
 (c) Concern for others and work together
 (d) Iron will
- (iv) Which top award was bestowed on her by Indian government?
 (a) Bharat Ratna (b) Padma Vibhushan
 (c) Padma Shri (d) None of these

Ans. (i) (a) Only woman to climb Everest twice in one year
 (ii) (d) All of these
 (iii) (c) Concern for others and work together
 (iv) (c) Padma Shri

- 5** "The feeling is indescribable. The Indian flag was flying on top of the world. It was truly a spiritual moment. I felt proud as an Indian."

Also a fervent environmentalist, Santosh collected and brought down 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas.

- (i) How did Santosh feel when she unfurled Indian flag at the top of Mount Everest?
 (a) Very excited
 (b) Very proud Indian
 (c) Gratitude
 (d) Both 'b' and 'c'
- (ii) What quality Santosh Yadav showed by collecting garbage from the Everest?
 (a) A true Indian
 (b) A true environmentalist
 (c) A perfect mountaineer
 (d) A good human being
- (iii) Find a word from the extract which means 'rubbish'.
 (a) Environment
 (b) Mountains
 (c) Garbage
 (d) Fervent
- (iv) How much garbage was collected by Santosh Yadav from the Everest?
 (a) 40 kgs (b) 80 kgs
 (c) 50 kgs (d) 500 kgs

Ans. (i) (b) Very proud Indian
 (ii) (b) A true environmentalist
 (iii) (c) Garbage
 (iv) (d) 500 kgs

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

- 1** What kind of society was Santosh Yadav born in? How was her grandmother different from others?

Ans. Santosh Yadav was born in a society where the birth of a son was regarded as a blessing and a daughter was generally not welcomed. Her grandmother was different from others as she wanted a girl. In general, the society was orthodox and conservative.

- 2** What surprised the travelling 'holy man'? Did his blessings work?

Ans. The travelling 'holy man' assumed that like everyone Santosh's family also wanted a son. When Santosh's grandmother requested him for a daughter, he was surprised for he never anticipated so. Yes, his blessings seemed to work because as per grandmother's wish, a daughter was born.

3 How did Santosh fulfil her wish to study in Delhi?

Ans. Santosh's wish to study in Delhi was fulfilled when she threatened her parents of never getting married if she didn't get proper education. She left home and enrolled herself in a school in Delhi. This is how she fulfilled her wish to study in Delhi.

4 What happened when Santosh's parents refused to pay for her fees?

Ans. When Santosh's parents refused to pay for her fees, she politely informed them of her plans to earn money by working part time to pay her school fees. Then, they agreed to pay for it.

5 Why did Santosh want to fight the system?

Ans. Santosh's parents were affluent. They could have sent her to the best schools but as per the tradition, she was sent to the local village school. As a result, she felt discontented and decided to fight the system. She wanted education for her and she got it.

6 What motivated Santosh for mountain climbing?

Ans. When Santosh was in Maharani College, Jaipur, she lived in Kasturba hostel. From her room, she could see the Aravalli Hills. She used to see villagers climbing up the hills and suddenly disappearing. She decided to check it out herself. She met some mountaineers. When she asked if she could join them, they answered in the affirmative. This motivated her to take to climbing.

7 What made Santosh scale Mt Everest the second time? How was it important?

Ans. Santosh scaled Mt Everest the second time as she was invited to be the member of an Indo-Nepalese women's expedition.

It was important as she secured a unique place for her and India by becoming the only woman in the world to have scaled the Everest twice within a year.

8 What is the secret of Santosh's success?

Ans. Santosh had a strong will power, great physical endurance and an amazing mental toughness. The single-minded determination and dedication helped her overcome all hurdles to emerge as a winner. She had qualities of hard work and sincerity.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

1 What qualities in Santosh Yadav helped her get into the record books both times she conquered Mt Everest? What values can one learn from her?

Ans. Success comes at a cost. It is never without a cost. You have to pay for it in the currency of dedication, hard work, focus and will power. The same was with Santosh when she achieved success for herself. Santosh Yadav was born in an orthodox society where the girl child was not welcomed.

From her early childhood, she showed the qualities of a rebel. She went to study out of her village despite her parents' unwillingness. She also enrolled herself to pursue mountaineering which required a lot of hard work, dedication and determination. Santosh showed qualities in her training like physical endurance, iron will, mental toughness and resistance to cold and altitude. These qualities helped her to scale Mt Everest twice and get her name into the record books. She is an inspiration for all of us but specially for girls. One can learn the values of being mentally tough, determined, dedicated and helping others from her. Her life shows us that nothing is impossible if one is passionate and determined about one's goal.

2 Santosh Yadav defied all orthodox social customs to choose her own path. What traits do you admire in her that made her a successful woman? Write about the lesson that we learn from the life of Santosh Yadav.

Ans. Santosh Yadav was born in a society where women did not have much freedom but she lived life on her own terms.

Where other girls in her village used to wear traditional Indian dresses, she wore shorts. In place of getting married like other girls at sixteen, she wished to study in Delhi. She threatened her parents that she would never marry if she did not get proper education. When her parents refused to pay her fees, she told them that she would work part time to pay her school fees. This made her parents agree to pay for her education. These incidents prove that she was a rebel and defied all orthodox customs to choose her own path.

Her determination, passion for work, dedication and strong will-power are the main traits which made her a successful woman. Her life teaches us that we can also touch the sky and achieve our goals if we are determined and honest with our work. Despite the problems and obstacles in our path, we should not lose hope and give our best.

- 3 Santosh Yadav possesses a deep feeling for others. What did she do on her expedition to Mt Everest to make a special place in the hearts of fellow climbers? Which important value does her deep feeling for others teach us?

Ans. A human being is identified by the compassion, love, care, sympathy and other virtues. It is obvious that if someone cares for someone then this is inevitable. If Santosh Yadav has these values then she is a real human being. Santosh Yadav is a good human being. She was a true team-member and companion. She got a special place in the hearts of fellow climbers because of her concern for them and desire to work together.

During her expedition to Mt Everest in 1992, she provided special care to a climber who lay dying at the South Col. But, she couldn't save him.

However, she managed to save another climber, Mohan Singh, who would have died if she had not shared her oxygen with him. With such characteristics, she becomes a role model for us. We should also help our classmates, friends, family members or anyone who is in need or facing trouble. Humanity is always bigger than any personal achievement and it makes a person, a real hero.

Part II Maria Sharapova

Extract Based Questions

[4 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and choose the correct option.

- 1 And that something in her lifted her on Monday, 22 August, 2005 to the world number one position in women's tennis. All this happened in almost no time. Poised beyond her years, the Siberian born teenager took just four years as a professional to reach the pinnacle.

- Who is the player mentioned in the extract?
(a) Serena Williams (b) Martina Navratilova
(c) Maria Sharapova (d) Simona Halep
- Why is 22nd August, 2005 important for Maria?
(a) She got married
(b) Became national champion
(c) Reached number 1 position in Women's Tennis
(d) Number 1 Judo champion
- Which word in the extract means the same as 'positioned'?
(a) Lifted (b) Poised
(c) Stationed (d) Reach
- Where was Maria Sharapova born?
(a) Georgia (b) Moscow
(c) Siberia (d) USA

- Ans.** (i) (c) Maria Sharapova
(ii) (c) Reached number 1 position in Women's Tennis
(iii) (b) Poised
(iv) (c) Siberia

- 2 Little Maria had not yet celebrated her tenth birthday when she was packed off to train in the United States. That trip to Florida with her father Yuri launched her on the path to success and stardom. But it also required a

heart-wrenching two-year separation from her mother Yelena.

- How old was Maria when she came to US for training?
(a) 8 years (b) 12 years
(c) 9 years (d) 10 years
- What did the trip to Florida require?
(a) 2 years separation from mother
(b) Hardwork
(c) Perseverance
(d) Money for practice
- Explain the phrase 'heart-wrenching'.
(a) Very refreshing (b) Melancholic
(c) Distressing (d) Pessimistic
- Why could Maria's mother not come with her?
(a) Lack of money (b) Visa restrictions
(c) Take care of home (d) Continue her job

- Ans.** (i) (d) 10 years
(ii) (a) 2 years separation from mother
(iii) (c) Distressing
(iv) (b) Visa restrictions

- 3 "Instead of letting that depress me, I became more quietly determined and mentally tough. I learnt how to take care of myself. I never thought of quitting because I knew what I wanted.

- What did Maria want in her life?
(a) To earn lot of money
(b) To excel in Tennis
(c) To help her father
(d) To earn a name

- (ii) What does 'that' refer to
 (a) Continuous practice
 (b) Separation from mother
 (c) Less meeting with father
 (d) Harrassment by senior players
- (iii) Which qualities were acquired by Maria during this period?
 (a) Patience (b) Determination
 (c) Mental toughness (d) Both 'b' and 'c'
- (iv) Which word in the extract means the opposite of 'continuing'?
 (a) Depress (b) Quitting
 (c) Quietly (d) Determined

- Ans.** (i) (b) To excel in Tennis
 (ii) (d) Harrassment by senior players
 (iii) (d) Both 'b' and 'c'
 (iv) (b) Quitting

4 The straight looks and the answers she gives when asked about her ambition make it amply clear that she considers the sacrifices were worth it. "I am very, very competitive. I work hard at what I do. It's my job." This is her mantra for success.

- (i) What is the 'mantra for success' for Maria Sharapova?
 (a) Patience
 (b) Perseverance and hardwork
 (c) determination
 (d) Both 'b' and 'c'
- (ii) Which sacrifices are mentioned here?
 (a) Separation from mother
 (b) Loss of her job
 (c) Loss of money
 (d) Insults by seniors
- (iii) What made Maria doing hardwork from an early age?
 (a) Her ambition
 (b) earn money and fame
 (c) to excel
 (d) All of the above
- (iv) Find a word from the extract which means 'to be the best at something'.
 (a) Ambition (b) Competitive
 (c) Sacrifices (d) None of these

- Ans.** (i) (d) Both 'b' and 'c'
 (ii) (a) Separation from mother
 (iii) (d) All of the above
 (iv) (b) Competitive

5 Like any number of teenaged sensations, Maria Sharapova lists fashion, singing and dancing as her hobbies. She loves reading the novels of Arthur Conan Doyle. Her

fondness for sophisticated evening gowns appears at odds with her love of pancakes with chocolate spread and fizzy orange drinks.

- (i) What are the hobbies of Maria Sharapova?
 (a) Singing (b) Dancing
 (c) Fashion (d) All of these
- (ii) What does she like to eat?
 (a) Cakes
 (b) Pancakes with chocolate spread
 (c) Sandwiches
 (d) Pizzas
- (iii) What does Maria Sharapova love to read?
 (a) Mystery novels (b) Magazines
 (c) Short stories (d) Newspaper articles
- (iv) Which word in the extract is similar to meaning a person, object or event that arouses wide spread interest and excitement?
 (a) Sophistication (b) Teenager
 (c) Sensation (d) Spread

- Ans.** (i) (d) All of these
 (ii) (b) Pancakes with chocolate spread
 (iii) (a) Mystery novels
 (iv) (c) Sensation

6 This is what she has to say about her monetary gains from tennis: "Of course, money is a motivation. Tennis is a business and a sport, but the most important thing is to become number one in the world. That's the dream that kept me going."

- (i) What is the place of money for Sharapova?
 (a) It is motivation
 (b) It is a deterrant
 (c) It is of no value
 (d) It is of no consequence
- (ii) What was Maria's dream?
 (a) To travel all over the world
 (b) To earn lots of money
 (c) To be number one
 (d) To be an inspiration
- (iii) What did Maria say about Tennis?
 (a) It is a sport
 (b) It is a business
 (c) It is just a game
 (d) Both 'a' and 'b'

- (iv) Which word from the extract will be antonym of 'discouragement'?
 (a) Business (b) Monetary gains
 (c) Motivation (d) Keep going

- Ans.** (i) (a) It is motivation
 (ii) (c) To be number one
 (iii) (d) Both 'a' and 'b'
 (iv) (c) Motivation

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

- 1 Why did Maria have to stay away from her mother? How did she feel about that?

Ans. Maria had to stay away from her mother because she had to go to the United States for her professional training and her mother could not accompany her due to visa restrictions. She felt very lonely and depressed about that. She had to bear with this separation.

- 2 Why did Maria not retaliate against the humiliation at the hands of the other athletes?

Ans. Maria did not retaliate against the humiliation at the hands of the other athletes because she was working hard to become the world's number one tennis player. So, she took it as a challenge and worked harder to achieve success. Had she retaliated against these then she would not have reached there.

- 3 Why does Maria call herself totally Russian?

Ans. Though Maria lives in the USA, but at heart she is a Russian. She says that her blood is totally Russian, and wants to represent Russia in the Olympics. This is just an indication of her patriotism and her true love for her country.

- 4 Detail some of the hobbies of Maria Sharapova?

Ans. Like all the teenagers, Maria, too, has the same hobbies. It was no less than the hobbies of common youngsters. Maria's hobbies are fashion, singing and dancing. She also loves reading novels of Arthur Conan Doyle.

- 5 How are Maria's achievements significant?

Ans. Maria's achievements were significant as she worked very hard and sacrificed her childhood for being the number one in tennis. She had scarce resources and the economic condition of her father was no better. Under the constraints, anything achieved is substantial.

- 6 What does Maria declare to be her 'Mantra' for success?

Ans. Maria considers herself very competitive and works hard to be the best in whatever she does. She does not allow herself to be emotional and sentimental. This is her 'Mantra' for success.

- 7 Maria's parents played an important role in her success. How?

Ans. When Maria went to the US for tennis training, she was only nine-years old. So, her father accompanied her there and worked hard to keep her tennis training going. So, her parents played an important role in her success.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

- 1 Was it money or her dream of becoming number one in the world that motivated Maria to play tennis? What traits in one's personality are reflected when one is motivated in the right direction? What values one develops when motivated?

Ans. Everybody needs something in order to excel in the walk of life. Some can motivate themselves with power, some can with money, some can with attitudes etc. But, in the modern days, money rules the most. So, we can say it to be one of the greatest motivation but not the ultimate means to any thing. Maria Sharapova became the world's number one player in women's tennis at the age of eighteen. She became famous and earned money through tennis. She considers money as her motivation as tennis is both a business and a sport.

But she considers being number one in the world more important than anything else to her and dreams to achieve her goal at any cost. She works hard as success has not made her arrogant and wants to represent her native country 'Russia' in the Olympics. One can learn from her life that success comes after hard work and dedication. One should not become arrogant after success if one wants to remain on the top of the world.

- 2 Mental toughness and determination became a key to Maria's success. How these qualities in an individual can help him in pursuing his dream?

Ans. Success demands the best of your efforts. If you can put the best then success comes to you. One can get depressed and would surely be deprived of success in this case. But, the young Maria was not the one to

lose her hope. Maria Sharapova, a Russian tennis player, moved to the USA at the age of nine for her training. She was accompanied by her father as her mother was unable to join her due to visa restrictions. She shared her room with other girls who bullied her but she did not get depressed. She became more determined and due to this, she achieved her goal of becoming world's number one in women's tennis. Her mental toughness and determination helped her reach the top at the age of eighteen.

She teaches us that success comes after hard work, dedication and sacrifices. One has to conquer the hurdles of life. If one sacrifices the luxuries of life in the start, one can reap the fruit of hard work and taste success. So, to achieve one's goal, one has to be ready to work hard and sacrifice because hard work never goes waste. One, who hesitates from doing the hard work, can't taste it. Since, Maria was devoted to her sports she achieved what she wished.

3 Why did Maria Sharapova's mother not accompany her to USA? What did Maria feel for her mother? How this separation from her mother helped her accomplish her goal? What important values do we learn from this incident?

Ans. Maria Sharapova's father Yuri wanted her to be trained in the USA so that she could be a better player of tennis. She was only nine year old girl when due to visa restrictions, her mother Yelena could not come with her to the USA. This heart-wrenching (breaking) separation was for two years. She terribly missed her mother. But it was like a boon for her as she became more determined and mentally tough to achieve whatever she has thought. She learnt how to take care of herself. She used to say that with nothing, one can be more determined and hungry. She never felt depressed and she worked hard for her success and became world's number one player in women's tennis in 2005. This incident teaches us that hard work and determination help us achieve the goal of our life but it requires sacrifices also. If one is ready to sacrifice the immediate comfort then one can achieve what one wishes. Remember, success comes at a cost.

Self Assessment

Part I Santosh Yadav

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and choose the correct option:

1 Equipped with an iron will, physical endurance and an amazing mental toughness, she proved herself repeatedly. The culmination of her hard work and sincerity came in 1992, just four years after she had shyly asked the Aravalli mountaineers if she could join them. At barely twenty years of age, Santosh Yadav scaled Mt Everest becoming the youngest woman in the world to achieve the feat.

- (i) What qualities have been reflected in Santosh Yadav's character?
- (a) Mental toughness (b) Physical fitness
(c) Iron will (d) All of these
- (ii) At what age did Santosh Yadav scale Mount Everest?
- (a) 18 (b) 16 (c) 20 (d) 21
- (iii) Find a word similar in meaning to the word 'summit'.
- (a) Mountain (b) Peak (c) Scaled (d) Barely
- (iv) What is her achievement?
- (a) Learnt mountaineering (b) Work according to her will
(c) Youngest woman to scale Mt Everest (d) Great humanitarian

- 2 She threatened her parents that she would never marry if she did not get proper education. She left home and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi. When her parents refused to pay for her education, she politely informed them of her plans to earn money by working part time to pay her school fees.
- (i) Why did Santosh threaten her parents to get proper education?
- (a) She wanted to get educated
(b) She would never marry
(c) Her interest was in mountaineering
(d) She was not sent to city for education
- (ii) What did Santosh do to show that she will get educated?
- (a) Left home
(b) Got enrolled in a school in Delhi.
(c) Took tuitions to pay for her fees
(d) Both 'a' and 'b'
- (iii) Find the word from the extract which means the opposite of 'agreed'.
- (a) Refused
(b) Denied
(c) Enrolled
(d) Earn
- (iv) What impact her threats had on her parents?
- (a) Agreed to pay for her education
(b) Refused to pay
(c) Debarred her from village
(d) Brought her back

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

- 3 Why did Santosh's grandmother ask the holy man for the blessings of a daughter?
- 4 How was Santosh unlike other girls of her village?
- 5 What was the right moment? What did Santosh do at the moment?
- 6 Why and how did Santosh get enrolled in Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi?
- 7 How did Santosh feel when she was literally 'on top of the world'?

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

- 8 A girl child is generally not welcomed in our society. What effects does this practice has on a girl child? On account of the lesson, what values are to be taught to the parents of a girl child?
- 9 How did Santosh Yadav make her parents agree to pay for her school fees in Delhi? Do you think she had rebelled for the right reasons? What qualities in Santosh made her do so? What values do we learn from her rebellious attitude?
- 10 Santosh Yadav collected and brought down 500 kg of garbage from the Himalayas. What traits of her personality are highlighted here? How can you help keep your environment clean? What values one learns from this incident?

Part II Maria Sharapova

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and choose the correct option.

- 1 The latter was compelled to stay back in Siberia because of visa restrictions. The nine-year-old girl had already learnt an important lesson in life — that tennis excellence would only come at a price.
- (i) Who could not come to US with Maria?
- (a) Father
(b) Grandmother
(c) Mother
(d) Brother
- (ii) What was the problem?
- (a) Lack of funds
(b) Stay to take care of others
(c) Take up a job
(d) Visa restrictions

(iii) The word 'forced' can also mean

(a) agreed

(c) learnt

☒ (b) compelled

(d) pay a price

(iv) Explain the phrase "Tennis excellence would come at a price".

(a) Has to leave many things

(b) Has to work hard

☒ (c) Has to sacrifice many things

(d) Has to kneel down to others

2 Though Maria Sharapova speaks with a pronounced American accent, she proudly parades her Russian nationality. Clearing all doubts, she says, "I'm Russian. It's true that the U.S. is a big part of my life. But I have Russian citizenship. My blood is totally Russian. I will play the Olympics for Russia if they want me."

(i) What sentiments does Maria have for her nation?

☒ (a) Proud to be a Russian

(b) Praises US only

(c) Doesn't like to go back to Russia

(d) Proud to be a tennis player

(ii) What does Maria Sharapova wish for?

(a) To travel all over the world

☒ (b) To play the Olympics for Russia

(c) To stay in USA only

(d) To settle down in Russia

(iii) How did Sharapova, inspite of being Russian, acquire American accent?

☒ (a) Since the age of 9, she has been in America

(b) She loves America and its accent

(c) American accent helps her in Tennis sport

(d) Can communicate with others

(iv) What is the antonym of the word 'proudly'?

(a) Arrogantly

☒ (b) Haughtily

(c) Modestly

(d) Greatly

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

3 How does Yuri help Maria on the path of success and stardom?

4 Describe Maria's struggle to reach at the top of the world in the field of the women tennis.

5 Maria possesses some contradictory characteristics. What are they?

6 How does Maria describe her journey from Siberia to United States?

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

7 Maria's father was a laborious man. What traits in one's personality are developed when one sees his/her parents working hard for them? What duties towards one's parents became most important? What values are learnt when you realise this duty?

8 Few people felt jealous of Maria because of riches she reaped. In showing this attitude, what qualities of Maria were they unaware of? Would you feel the same if your friend is performing better than you at school? If no then why?