

Reach for the Top – Important Questions

Q. Can Maria Sharapova be considered as a patriot? Substantiate your answer with examples.

Ans. Maria Sharapova was a patriot. She says that though America has played a major role in her life yet she is proud to be a Russian. She says that she holds the Russian citizenship and her blood is totally Russian. She is ready to play the Olympics for Russia if they would invite her to play.

Q. What difficulties did Santosh face in her childhood?

Ans. Though Santosh was born in a rich family who could easily send their children to the best schools, Santosh was sent to the local village school. She was not provided with the proper facilities to achieve success.

Q. What shows Santosh's concern for environment

Ans. Santosh had set the record as the only woman to climb Everest twice. She was also an ardent lover of environment and wanted to work for the betterment of it. Her concern for the environment can be seen when she brought 500 kg of garbage from the Himalayas.

Q. What was Santosh determined about from the beginning? When did Santosh protest against the traditional system for the first time?

Ans. From the beginning, Santosh was determined that if she chose the correct and rational path, then other would change for her, not she. Santosh protested against the traditional system for the first time at the age of 16 when her parents wanted her to get married. She left her home and went to Delhi to study further.

Q. How did Santosh take to mountaineering ?

Ans. When Santosh was in Kasturba Hostel of Maharani College in Delhi, she used to see some villagers going up the Aravalli hill and suddenly vanishing after a while. On asking them, she came to know that they were mountaineers. She asked them if she could join them. They readily agreed and motivated her to take to climbing.

Q. Why did Maria Sharapova feel so lonely while getting her tennis training in the US?

Ans. She felt lonely because her mother was compelled to stay back in Siberia because of visa restrictions thereby had to bear two years of separation from her mother. Her father had to work hard to pay for her tennis training.

Q. What motivated Maria to keep going?

Ans. Maria's determination, mental toughness and her hunger for success to prove herself to the world motivated her to keep going.

Q. Which title did Maria Sharapova win in 2004? What was the key to Maria's winning this ?

Ans. Maria Sharapova won women's singles at Wimbledon in 2004. Her toughness was the key to her winning the title.

Q. How did the senior tennis players bully young Maria?

Ans. As Maria was quite young, she used to go to bed early. The senior tennis players came late in the night and would wake her up asking her to clean up the room for them. This made her more determined and mentally tough.

Q. What does Maria say about her Russian origin?

Ans. Maria Sharapova says that though America has played a major role in her life yet she is proud to be a Russian. She says that she still holds the Russian citizenship and her blood is totally Russian. She is ready to play the Olympics for Russia if they would invite her to play.

Q. How did Maria achieve her success?

Ans. Maria had a humble beginning. When she was nine years old, she was sent off to the United States on the path of success and stardom. She had strong determination and mental toughness. She was also very hard working and competitive which helped in achieving her success.

Q. Santosh was not only an outstanding mountaineer but also an exemplary human being. Do you agree with this statement? Justify.

Ans. Santosh Yadav became the youngest woman across the world to scale the Mt. Everest at the age of 22. She could have rejoiced her achievement but she was concerned about the fellow climbers. She wanted to work together with them which shows that she was not selfish and did not like a solo journey of success. She wanted others to succeed. This won her a special place in the heart of the fellow climbers. During the 1992 Everest mission, Santosh Yadav provided special care to a climber who lay dying at the South Col. She was unfortunately unsuccessful in saving him. However, she managed to save another climber, Mohan Singh, who would have met with the same fate had she not shared her oxygen with him. Her concern and gratitude for the environment came to the fore when she brought down 500 kg of garbage from the Himalayas. Santosh was indeed an exemplary human being.