

# RETIREMENT AGE: EXTENDED TO 85

## ISSUE



Stanford University **biologist** Shripad Tuljapurkar told a science convention in the USA that medical advances could increase human **longevity** dramatically over the coming **decades**, rudely reshaping our **perceptions** and realities of work. Tuljapurkar predicts modern economies will not be able to support their increasingly numerous **retirees**, greater numbers of who are opting to leave the workforce at increasingly younger ages. Professor Tuljapurkar **forecasts** that most people living in today's industrialized societies can expect to become **centenarians** because of advances in medicine and genetic science. He believes once **geneticists** unlock the key to the ageing gene, society will have to quickly undergo shifts of seismic magnitude.

## Vocabulary



Biologist



Geneticist



Retirees

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## Response

1. As a reader, what was your immediate reaction after reading the passage? Why?
2. If you were to change the life span of human being, would you make it longer or shorter? Why?
3. Do you think longevity is an asset to human existence or a liability?



## Express Yourself: Agree or Disagree to the following points.

1. Tough competition in the workplace will most likely to happen because of the longer life span.
2. Longevity is an additional cause of economic downturns mainly in the Third World Country.
3. Having a longer life span is an aid to those countries which lack labor force. But sacrificing efficiency and quality.
4. Robotics society is more promising than a society populated with the elders.