

MAURITIUS

TIMES

• “Lower taxes, less government spending on domestic programs and fewer regulations mean a better economy for everybody”. -- Larry Elder

Matters of The Moment

Putting
the Cart
before the
Horse

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International Consultant & Economist



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Budget 2021-2022

A budget is important if it reflects the vision statement of the government and indicates a clear direction to achieve the goals set out in its development plan, as well as presents strategic thinking and concrete decisions to help the country face many of the short- to long-term economic challenges. These include measures to help the economy fight its way out of the difficult international environment, compounded by the uncertainty ushered in by the Covid-19 pandemic. How will Budget 2021-22, to be presented by Finance minister Renganaden Padayachy today, meet these objectives? What are the measures that will be proposed to reignite the engines of growth? Will the excessive budget deficits be brought under control? How will the budget fare in terms of reform delivery - pension and sectoral reforms to generate productivity improvements...? It is along these lines that Budget 2021-2022 will be analyzed.

Following its 2021 Article IV Mission to Mauritius, the IMF highlighted in a statement the challenges facing the Mauritian economy and what needs to be done to restart the engine of growth. 'In the short-term,' it stated, 'accommodative fiscal and monetary stances are appropriate. As the country emerges from the pandemic, fiscal consolidation will be necessary to stabilize public debt, and monetary policy measures will need to be strengthened. During the recovery phase, Mauritius should prioritize support measures to improve the economy's resilience and competitiveness and accelerate its long-term structural transformation.'

We have so far avoided making hard choices. The reform agenda remains unfinished and critical constraints to economic development have become increasingly evident. It is to be hoped that the budget will reflect a responsible approach to ensure a better future for the country, not one that comes down to a mere listing of projects, but without any strategic thinking and concrete measures to tackle many of the economic challenges facing the country.

In the absence of structures that would have made the economy resilient on its own if it had developed a broader base of production in past years, it is not unusual for governments to inject expenditures in public infrastructure - and in white elephants - to keep up economic activity. The idea rather should be in investments directed to sectors where they will be more productive and sustainable without state support if not in the immediate, at least in the medium term.

On the other hand, if existing domestic sectors of activity dependent on external markets will take time to recover their past rates of growth, it is to be hoped that the budget will help bring up new sectors of activity which can sustain themselves better than the rest. It means that we have to enlarge the economic base. This would be a more fitting response of the budget to our economic problem than doping, for example, underperforming exporters with "stimulus packages" as it would be envisaged with the MIC.

We could also just as well use the budget as the door-opener to a new class of empowered entrepreneurs, even if the scale at which they will operate at first will not be that big. The seeds of future production potential lie in decisions such as these. A lot of micro-analysis is involved in giving the economy the necessary impulse for turning it around to innovative activities and getting over hurdles which have manifested themselves already.

On the other hand, one expects in the budget measures of support to the ever-suffering middle class, which is contracting and this augurs badly in any country that it happens. There is an urgency to support and empower small businesses such as restaurants, the self-employed, the small planters - all of whom have suffered tremendous setbacks for lack of economic activity during the protracted lockdowns that have curtailed them. Whereas larger businesses such as supermarkets and banks have done much better. In fact, there is a need for the budget to cast a more equitable eye over all sectors of economic activity and give the requisite support or incentives that will re-start the engine of economic activity - and lead to their growth. Nothing less than that is likely to lift the country out of the trough it now is in.

The Conversation

Is tax avoidance ethical?

Wriggling out of paying taxes may be legal, but is it right? Aristotle, Immanuel Kant - and others - have their say.



Should America's billionaires be paying more tax? J. Countess/Getty Images, Joe Raedle/Getty Images, Arif Hudaverdi Yaman/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

Some of the US's wealthiest individuals reportedly pay just a tiny fraction of the billions of dollars added annually to their fortunes in federal income tax - sometimes they pay nothing at all.

Investigative journalism outlet ProPublica says it has obtained a "vast cache" of information from the Internal Revenue Service that purports to show the lengths that American billionaires go to avoid paying taxes.

It claims to provide an insight into how prominent billionaires such as Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk and Michael Bloomberg take advantage of "tax avoidance strategies" beyond the reach of ordinary people.

Though there is general public consensus on the illegality of tax evasion - the act of deliberately not paying taxes that are due - much more variance exists in how the public evaluates and scrutinizes tax avoidance strategies that seek to minimize the amount an individual pays through legal loopholes. There is no suggestion that the billionaires in the ProPublica report did anything illegal. A poll taken just before the 2016 election found that nearly half of Americans

agreed with Donald Trump - another wealthy individual not averse to tax avoidance strategies - who noted that paying minimal or no taxes is "smart." But two-thirds said it is "selfish" and 61% declared it to be "unpatriotic."

Rights and responsibilities

As a scholar who studies business ethics, I see these differences in how individuals view and rationalize tax avoidance as being dependent on a person's ethical foundations. Ethical foundations are the principles, norms and values that guide individual or group beliefs and behaviours. They can shape what people believe is important - such as fairness, care for oneself or others, loyalty and liberty - and guide judgments about what is right, or ethical, and what is wrong, or unethical.

Philosophers have debated these ethical foundations for centuries, coming up broadly with three different perspectives that are worth exploring in the context of tax avoidance strategies.

Erin Bass,
University of Nebraska Omaha

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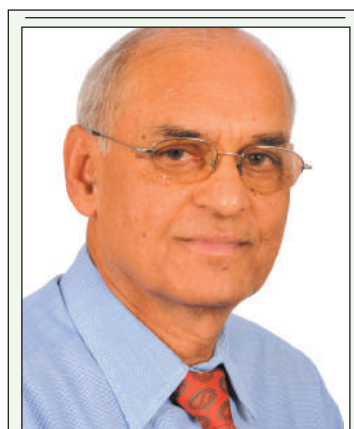
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The Primary Goal of a Health System

The best health system would be one where as few people as possible would need hospital services



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Most people think hospitals are places where they go to regain their health, in other words they tend to associate health with hospitals. In general they are not really conscious that they have a responsibility to maintain themselves in good health, unless egged on by the medical professionals when they fall sick and seek treatment. In the system of allopathic or western scientific medicine as it has evolved from its beginnings over the past couple of centuries, the ruling model has been the treatment of disease. This has been so despite some spectacular early historical successes in the prevention of disease - such as supplying clean potable water when a cholera outbreak was found to be due to sewage contaminating drinking water by Dr John Snow (London, 1854), or antiseptic measures introduced by Dr Semmelweis (Budapest, 1860s) to control childbirth infections and reduce mortality.

All doctors trained in modern medicine, who constitute the majority of practitioners in practically all countries aspiring towards modernity in today's world, are overwhelmingly driven by this mindset of treating disease rather than preventing illness - and I plead guilty. As we pass out of medical school, we look forward to eventually find a position in a hospital, the bigger the better, or if this does not happen then to set up in private practice on our own. Either way we have access to an armamentarium of equipments and drugs to propose to our patients.

And they too are fed on the same paradigm, believing that there is **a pill for every ill**. Thus, it is only when they fall ill that they first come in contact with the health system, in the form of a doctor, who by virtue of his training then resorts to dispensing treatment which will almost invariably include drugs. And once they feel well, even if it means taking medicines long-term for a chronic condition, they equate that to being in good health: the absence of a physical ailment.

Mostly we doctors too go along with this perception, although during the



“All doctors trained in modern medicine are overwhelmingly driven by this mindset of treating disease rather than preventing illness - and I plead guilty. As we pass out of medical school, we look forward to eventually find a position in a hospital, the bigger the better, or if this does not happen then to set up in private practice on our own. Either way we have access to an armamentarium of equipments and drugs to propose to our patients. And they too are fed on the same paradigm, believing that there is a pill for every ill...”

medical course we learn the definition of health according to the World Health Organisation when studying Public Health: 'Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.' However, we memorise this as we do so much else only for clearing the exams, after which - especially when we specialize - it is relegated to the backburner. But I must also admit that those who taught us the subject - known then as Preventive and Social Medicine - didn't manage to make it sound as sexy as other subjects that we had to pursue. Maybe it was different for others and elsewhere, but as far as I know only a handful of doctors passing out from any cohort would go on to specialize in Public Health, which is a low down option.

But we are reminded of its importance, nay its significance, most visibly and dramatically when there is a sudden and explosive health crisis, such as food poisoning or, as we are going through now, an epidemic or a pandemic.

Unbeknown to their populations at large, national authorities had for ages been taking steps to ensure their health. This is seen as far back as in ancient civilizations, such the Harappa-Mohenjodaro one, often referenced for its geometrically laid out buildings and a system of drains for both water collection and disposal of wastes among other things. But in recent historical times too, there was growing awareness about the need for clean water, clean air, hygiene and sanitation, proper nutrition and so on as being necessary for good health as science and medicine advanced, with the adoption of vaccination as an important preventive factor.

But still, the focus continued to be the cure of disease, the model being: prevention-treatment-rehabilitation (preventive-curative-rehabilitative), and again, with

the hospital being given pride of place. We had to wait for nearly 30 years after the founding of WHO, in 1978, to include the concept of promotion in a bid to inculcate the idea of quality of life, thus in a way enjoining the individual to assume responsibility for his health. This meant that they had a more active role to play in ensuring their good health, which is the very basis of quality of life, instead of being passive recipients of treatments dispensed only when ill-health was diagnosed.

This dimension was highlighted and captured during the first ever International Conference on Primary Health Care which was held at Alma-Ata in September 1978, jointly sponsored by WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund. It came up with a now famous document on Primary Health Care known as the Alma-Ata Declaration, whose opening paragraph drew attention to the 'need for urgent action by all governments, all health and development workers, and the world community to protect and promote the health of all people of the world...'

While governments have a responsibility to provide adequate health and social measures, Para IV of the Declaration emphasises the role of the people: 'The people have the right and duty to **participate individually** and collectively in the planning and implementation of their health care.'

By then, the accelerated industrialization that was taking place after the Second World War, the education and emancipation (including development of the contraceptive pill) allowing women to join the workforce and an increasing world population were some of the main factors that were driving levels of stress and change in family structure and human relationships. Food habits changed too as a result, with the rising consumption of fast food. Along with a host of other fac-

tors such as pollution, lack of adequate physical exercise, abuse of tobacco and alcohol, the conditions were leading to a rise in what are today known as the non-communicable diseases, first in the more developed and industrialized countries which had controlled infectious diseases, before spreading to other less developed countries as well, imposing on them a 'double burden' of disease (infectious and non-infectious).

Primary Health Care (PHC) was to address this problem in a novel way, as being 'essential health care based on practical, scientifically sound and socially acceptable methods and technology made universally accessible to individuals and families in the community through their full participation and at a cost that the community and the country can afford...It forms an integral part of the country's health system, of which it is the central function and main focus...the first level of contact of individuals, the family and community with the national health system bringing health care as close as possible to where people live and work, and constitutes the first element of a continuing health care process.'

Thus was set up locally the network of Community and Area Health Centres (140 +) to which were later added the Mediclinics. And at the central level (ministry) a Health Promotion Unit (HPU) which has been upgraded.

Has PHC been a success? Alas, no. Because people are still stuck to the pill-for-every-ill paradigm as they continue to pursue habits of consumption and lifestyles that are more conducive to sickness than to good health. And continue to flock to hospitals.

The best health system would be one where as few people as possible would need hospital services, which in fact should be the main goal of any health system. It can only be achieved if people make more effective use of PHC and take greater care of their own health and quality of life by following the whole range of advice that the PHC outlets as well as the HPU dispenses.

Of course we will still need hospitals, because in spite of taking all the preventative and promotive measures, one can still fall sick and need hospital care. Just as using a pedestrian crossing does not mean that you will never be hit by a car - but at least you considerably reduce the chances.

Similarly for your own health, reducing significantly the possibility of needing hospital care.

All of us: choose good health and quality of life through self-health promotion so as to push back hospital care the farthest possible, if ever.

Putting the Cart before the Horse



Mrinal Roy

Rational decision making requires that we first take all steps necessary to contain and break the chain of transmission of the virus to urgently make Mauritius Covid safe

The signs are not good. Every day new cases of Covid-19 are detected in diverse areas and localities scattered across the country. The country registered over a hundred new cases of coronavirus in the past week. Some 50 new cases of infection including 19 foreign workers have been identified in three days this week. The number of active cases in the country has as a consequence increased to 284 as at 9 June. A total of 903 cases have so far been detected in this year's wave of Covid-19 infection in contrast to only 337 cases of Covid-19 recorded during the first wave of infection in 2020.

What is of particular concern is that a motley of new cases of Covid-19 have recently been detected in diverse locations among factory workers, an employee of a public transport company, in workers' dormitories, a hospital ward and the offices of a firm operating in the Ebene cybercity. Hundreds of employees of these companies and all those in contact with the infected persons have had to be confined in quarantine. This worsening situation has heightened fears of coronavirus infection in the country especially among the elderly and those with chronic diseases.

Inconsiderate decisions

Every new case of Covid-19 in the country is a setback. A daily crop of new cases inordinately delays the prospects of Mauritius becoming Covid safe again and adds to the escalating costs of managing the pandemic. A rising tally of infected persons in the country cannot be the collateral price to pay for hastily rebooting the economy. The safety of people in the context of a deadly pandemic cannot be sacrificed on the altar of economic and corporate expediency. The collateral victims of such inconsiderate decisions are very often frontliners of government services, senior citizens suffering from chronic ailments, factory workers and other operatives of the economy and the corporate sector

Despite the rising number of local cases, the hotel sector and the political lobbies jockeying for their interests continue to clamour for our borders to be opened. Do they irresponsibly want to also expose the country and employees of the hospitality sector to extremely more contagious and virulent imported variants of Covid-19 through tourists inflows at a time when the country is still grappling with the second wave of coronavirus infection and is yet to obtain the required vaccines to vaccinate the population in order to achieve herd immunity in the country?

In a context of rising daily new cases of infection, how can government consider that all is well, especially as schools are to start in early July? Shouldn't the current Covid-19 strategy be urgently reviewed to robustly contain and stem the second wave of coronavirus infection in the country?

Are we putting the cart before the horse? Rational decision making requires that we first take all steps necessary to contain and break the chain of transmission of



Pic - PTI

“Despite the rising number of local cases, the hotel sector and the political lobbies jockeying for their interests continue to clamour for our borders to be opened. Do they irresponsibly want to also expose the country and employees of the hospitality sector to extremely more contagious and virulent imported variants of Covid-19 through tourists inflows at a time when the country is still grappling with the second wave of coronavirus infection and is yet to obtain the required vaccines to vaccinate the population in order to achieve herd immunity in the country?”

the virus to urgently make Mauritius Covid safe. Secondly, we need to urgently take the actions required to accelerate the programme of vaccination to achieve herd immunity at the earliest.

Existential threats

The country cannot continue to throw good money after bad if it is to overcome the enduring Covid-19 crisis and chart a viable way forward

The world and humanity are facing two major existential threats: Covid-19 and climate change. It is a battle for survival. In February 2021, G7 leaders recognized that 'no country can be safe until every country is safe'. In their joint communiqué released on 5 June, G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors reiterated that 'the Covid-19 pandemic can only be overcome when it is brought under control everywhere'. WHO cautioned earlier this month that 'it would be a monumental error for any country to think the danger has passed. The inequitable distribution of vaccines means that globally, we have allowed the virus to continue to spread, increasing the chances of a variant emerging that renders vaccines less effective. Inequitable vaccination is a threat to all nations, not only those with limited access to vaccines.'

We cannot therefore rashly rush the process towards a modicum of normality when the virus is very much present in our midst and wreaking immeasurable havoc and disastrous fallouts in the world.

The world and in particular developed countries have learnt from the experience of battling against the pandemic for more than 17 months that no country should hastily lift restrictions imposed to contain the spread of Covid-19 in order to reboot the economy. Too many countries have learnt this key lesson the hard way. Hastily opening economic activities before first and foremost strictly containing the spread of such a deadly pandemic has invariably triggered second and third waves of infection, a rising death toll and escalating costs of managing the new surges of infection. It has been a heavy price to pay to learn this cardinal lesson.

Across the world whenever there is surge of Covid-19 cases in a country, strict restrictions are swiftly imposed and robust actions are taken to contain the spread of the virus in the community. Temporary lockdowns and strict restrictions were thus imposed recently by governments in India, Australia, Germany, France and the United Kingdom to successfully curb the spike in infection in these countries. Actions that need to be promptly taken to contain a surge of infection in a country are not rocket science.

From past experience, countries have learnt to be more cautious and lift lockdown and other restrictions only after a careful assessment of all factors, expert advice obtained and latest information available on the state of the coronavirus infection in the country.

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Anil Madan

Some three and one-half years ago, just before Christmas 2017, and two and one-half years before the clutches of the current pandemic grabbed us in the US and we faced gubernatorial advice and directives to socially distance, and go into isolation, Dr Francis Collins, Director of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued a statement that, in retrospect, seems curious. He announced that the NIH was lifting a funding pause dating back to October 2014 on gain-of-function (GOF) experiments involving influenza, SARS, and MERS viruses. The funding pause was lifted in response to a Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) framework for guiding funding decisions of Potential Pandemic Pathogens (PPP).

The idea, as Collins described it, was to have a multi-disciplinary review process involving PPP research to consider the scientific merits and potential benefits of the research, as well as the potential to create, transfer, or use an enhanced potential pandemic pathogen. Was this, in other words, a euphemism for studying the potential for biological warfare? The statement concluded with the usual obligatory pablum about "a responsibility to ensure that research with infectious agents is conducted responsibly." Or, a responsibility to responsibly conduct such research, whatever that means.

On April 11, 2020, about a month after the first shutdowns of bars, restaurants, hotels, resorts, sports stadia, airlines, etc., were the new reality, Britain's *Daily Mail* reported that the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) has been carrying out research on bats from the cave which scientists believe is the original source of the devastating pandemic outbreak. Notice that there was no mention of a Wuhan meat market here.

Rather, the *Daily Mail* reported that documents it had obtained show that the WIV undertook coronavirus experiments on mammals captured more than 1000 miles away in Yunnan funded by a \$3.7 million grant from the US government.

And the *Mail* noted, as had been reported widely, that sequencing of the Covid-19 genome has traced it to bats found in Yunnan's caves.

A recent opinion piece in Canada's *Financial Post* referred to the possibility of previously undisclosed information about connections between Canada's National Microbiology Laboratory and the WIV. That article also mentioned a US intelligence report that revealed that three researchers working at the WIV were hospitalized in November 2019 with symptoms consistent with both Covid-19 and common seasonal illness. This, of course, lends credibility to the hypothesis that the Covid-19 virus leaked from

Going batty about Wuhan

The possibility that the US and Canadian governments have been involved in questionable and even dangerous biological "research" without adequate oversight is frightening



Pic - static.timesofisrael.tif

"President Biden recently announced that he has asked the U.S. intelligence community to report within 90 days on the likely origins of Covid-19. Biden said the US Intelligence Community has "coalesced around two likely scenarios." One is that the virus emerged from human contact with an infected animal, and the other that there was a possible laboratory accident involving release of the virus..."

the Wuhan lab.

The *Financial Post* goes on to state: "In July 2019, the head of the Winnipeg lab's Vaccine Development and Antiviral Therapies section in the Special Pathogens Program was Chinese virologist Xiangguo Qiu. That month, she and her husband, Keding Cheng, along with a number of her Chinese students, were marched out of the lab by the RCMP." And the article suggests that there may have been unauthorized shipments of deadly viruses or stolen intellectual property being sent to China.

Toronto's *Globe and Mail* reported on May 20, 2021: "Scientists working at Canada's highest-security infectious-disease laboratory have been collaborating with Chinese military researchers to study and conduct experiments on deadly pathogens.

"Seven scientists in the special pathogens unit at the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) in Winnipeg and Chinese military researchers have conducted experiments and co-authored six studies on infectious diseases such as Ebola, Lassa fever and Rift Valley fever. The publication dates of the studies range from early 2016 to early 2020."

On May 11, 2021, the *Austin American Statesman* published an article stating: "In 2014, the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, the part of the NIH headed by Fauci, awarded a \$3.4 million grant to the New York-based EcoHealth Alliance, which aims to protect people from viruses that jump from species to species.

"The group hired the virology lab in Wuhan to conduct genetic analyses of bat coronaviruses collected in Yunnan province, about 800 miles southwest of Wuhan. EcoHealth Alliance paid the lab \$598,500 over five years. The lab had secured approval from both the US State Department and the NIH."

On May 25, 2021, *The New York Post* reported: "The National Institutes of Health earmarked \$600,000 for the Wuhan Institute of Virology over a five-year period to study whether bat coronaviruses could be transmitted to humans, White House chief medical adviser Dr Anthony Fauci told

lawmakers Tuesday.

"Fauci, the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the money was funnelled to the Chinese lab through the non-profit EcoHealth Alliance to fund 'a modest collaboration with very respectable Chinese scientists who were world experts on coronavirus.'

"But Fauci emphatically denied that the money went toward so-called 'gain of function' research, which he described as 'taking a virus that could infect humans and making it either more transmissible and/or pathogenic for humans.'"

Fauci declared: "That categorically was not done."

Last week, President Biden announced that he has asked the US intelligence community to report within 90 days on the likely origins of Covid-19.

"It is entirely possible that the Chinese merely want to avoid embarrassing publicity and even possible accountability for unleashing the pandemic on the world. What is truly scary is that no matter how culpable the Chinese were in this process — and nothing has yet been proved — the possibility that the US and Canadian governments have been involved in questionable and even dangerous biological "research" without adequate oversight is frightening..."

Biden said the US Intelligence Community has "coalesced around two likely scenarios." One is that the virus emerged from human contact with an infected animal, and the other that there was a possible laboratory accident involving release of the virus.

The recent "investigation" by the WHO into the origins of the coronavirus concluded that the virus most likely leapt from animals to humans through an emissary animal. The WHO report came after a month-long study by a team of Chinese and international experts. The WHO concluded that it is probable the virus originated in a bat or pangolin before making the leap to people. As might have been expected, the report also stated that is "extremely unlikely" that the virus escaped from a laboratory in China, specifically the WIV.

As has been noted repeatedly in the worldwide press, China was less than open and enthusiastic about the investigation and appeared to control tightly access to relevant information. One would think that if the Chinese government really believed that the lab leak theory has no basis, it would welcome a thorough investigation. One would think that if the signs of US and Canadian involvement suggest that western governments were involved in highly questionable projects, they would not want a deeper look into what happened.

It is entirely possible that the Chinese merely want to avoid embarrassing publicity and even possible accountability for unleashing the pandemic on the world.

What is truly scary is that no matter how culpable the Chinese were in this process—and nothing has yet been proved—the possibility that the US and Canadian governments have been involved in questionable and even dangerous biological "research" without adequate oversight is frightening.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Musk, Bezos, other billionaires avoided US income taxes: Report

Several of the richest Americans have paid zero income tax in some years, according to an investigative report published Tuesday that comes as Washington weighs new proposals to address tax avoidance by the wealthiest individuals and companies.

The bombshell report, by New York-based journalism nonprofit ProPublica, showed Amazon Chairman Jeff Bezos paid no income tax in 2007 and 2011, while Tesla chief Elon Musk avoided all payments in 2018.

Some of the richest Americans "pay little in income tax compared to their massive wealth -- sometimes, even nothing," said ProPublica, which did not disclose how it obtained the confidential tax data, reports AFP.

Others who paid nothing to the Internal Revenue Service in some years included news industry billionaire and former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg, activist investor billionaire Carl Icahn, and philanthropist and financial giant George Soros.

ProPublica says the billionaires did nothing illegal in their tax declarations, but employed tax-avoidance strategies "beyond the reach of ordinary people."

They also benefited from the way taxable income is defined in the US tax code, since it does not take into account



ProPublica says the billionaires did nothing illegal in their tax declarations, but employed tax-avoidance strategies "beyond the reach of ordinary people." Pic - Agencies

the growing value of assets like stock and property, and only taxes proceeds from sales of those items.

The report comes days after G7 finance ministers endorsed a global minimum corporate tax rate of at least 15 percent, one of several tax proposals aimed at ensuring profitable multinationals pay their fair share.

Other efforts include Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren's initiative to tax the super-wealthy, including the value of

their stock holdings and homes, rather than focusing on income alone.

"Our tax system is rigged for billionaires who don't make their fortunes through income, like working families do," Warren said as she published the ProPublica article on Twitter.

"It is time for a #WealthTax in America to make the ultra-rich finally pay their fair share."

ProPublica's report is based on IRS tax returns of extremely wealthy people over

more than 15 years.

"Taken together, it demolishes the cornerstone myth of the American tax system: that everyone pays their fair share and the richest Americans pay the most," the article said.

Bezos in 2011 reported that his investment losses exceeded his income, meaning he could report a loss for the year. He also received a \$4,000 tax credit for his children that year, according to the report.

A spokesman for Soros told ProPublica that Soros did not owe taxes between 2016 and 2018 because his investments lost money, however, he supports higher taxes for the wealthy -- something he has spoken about publicly. Bloomberg and Icahn told the publication they had paid all taxes they owed.

ProPublica found that the rich pay far below the official 37 percent rate on the highest incomes if their taxes are compared to how much Forbes magazine reports their wealth has increased in a given year.

What ProPublica calls the "true tax rate" means that Buffett, for example, paid only 0.1 percent in taxes between 2014 and 2018.

Top UK epidemiologist warns of 'substantial third wave' of Covid-19 backed by new data modelling

A leading scientist linked with the UK's decision to go into a complete stay-at-home lockdown during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic last year on Wednesday warned that new data modelling suggests there is a risk of a "substantial third wave" of the coronavirus in the country.

Professor Neil Ferguson, an epidemiologist from Imperial College London, said the estimate for the R number - or the rate of infection - for the Delta variant of concern (VOC) is between 1.5 and 1.6. This means for every 10 people who get the strain, another 15 or 16 people will contract it.

The modelling came as the UK recorded another 7,540 coronavirus cases in the latest 24-hour period on Wednesday, the highest since the end of February, reports PTI.

"Basically [the modelling] is saying there is a risk of a substantial third wave, (but) we cannot be definitive about the scale of that - it could be substantially lower than the second wave or it could be of the same order of magnitude," professor Ferguson



The modelling came as the UK recorded another 7,540 coronavirus cases in the latest 24-hour period on Wednesday, the highest since the end of February. Pic - AP

told reporters.

"That, critically, depends on how effective the vaccines still are protecting people against hospitalisation and death against the Delta variant, as well as a few other unknowns. The key issue is how long will it keep on doubling, because we are starting at a very low level and we have a lot of immunity in the population from vaccination and from people being infected in the past," he said.

The scientist said that delaying the June 21 complete unlocking would allow for "more people to get second doses" of vaccines, as the modelling

suggests benefits to "getting more vaccines into more arms as it reduces the scale of any third wave".

It comes as the government continues to weigh up the data in order to make an announcement on the next stage in the lockdown roadmap by Monday.

Meanwhile, the National Health Service (NHS) declared another milestone in its vaccination programme with more than 1 million bookings for a Covid-19 vaccine through the NHS website on Tuesday. It

marks a record high figure and the first time daily appointments booked through the national booking service have topped the million mark.

"The Covid-19 vaccine is still the best protection against coronavirus and as further supplies become available to us week by week it's great that we've seen 25 to 29 year olds sending bookings to blockbuster levels, following hard on the heels of the millions of others," said Sir Simon Stevens, NHS chief executive.

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Joe Biden to meet Russia's Vladimir Putin in 18th-century Swiss villa for June 16 summit

US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin are set to hold their June 16 summit in an 18th-century Swiss villa overlooking Lake Geneva, a soothing setting for what promises to be heated talks.

Bitter disputes over election interference, cyber attacks, human rights and Ukraine hang over their first face-to-face meeting since Biden took office on Jan 20.

Strategic nuclear stability and regional conflicts will be on the table.

Putin said last Friday he expected the talks to be held in a positive atmosphere, though he anticipated no breakthrough.

He said allegations that Russian hackers were behind a cyber attack that disrupted meat production in North America and Australia were an attempt to provoke a political row ahead of the summit, Interfax news agency reported.



Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin to hold their June 16 summit in an 18th-century Swiss villa overlooking Lake Geneva. Pic - google.com

Despite "destructive noise" by both sides, a mutual objective has emerged to put their relationship "on a more pre-

dictable and stable basis", said Robert Legvold, professor emeritus at Colombia University and a Russia expert.

"Over time Geneva summits have been critical to the relationship," he told reporters in the Swiss city on Wednesday.

"And when it comes to actually working out important areas of cooperation, strategic nuclear arms control, the majority of those talks have been in Geneva too."

In the Cold War era, US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev held their first summit in Geneva in Nov. 1985 and agreed to pursue cuts in their nuclear arsenals.

In Geneva in 2009, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton gave Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov a yellow box bearing a red "reset" button to symbolise improved ties under President Barack Obama. But the word "reset" was mistranslated into the Russian word for "overcharge", creating an awkward moment.

Singapore's genome sequencing establishes Delta variant as dominant strain driving infection spread



Singapore sees rising Covid-19 cases. Pic - s.yimg.com

Genome sequencing of Coronavirus cases in Singapore has established that the delta variant (also known as B.1.617.2) is currently the country's dominant local virus strain, reports Bloomberg.

Of the cases as of May 31, 449 have been found to be caused by variants of concern, among which 428 were infections of the delta strain, said the country's health ministry.

The next largest group was nine cases linked to the beta mutation that first emerged in South Africa.

Singapore is among the few countries in the world to sequence all its coronavirus cases.

Delta variant has also emerged as the dominant strain in U.K. 75% of the nearly 14,000 viral genomes sequenced in England by the Wellcome Sanger Institute in the two weeks leading to May 29 were Delta.

In the UK, Delta is outcompeting the Alpha strain, formerly known as the "UK variant". This alone suggests Delta is more transmissible than Alpha, which is significantly more transmissible than the original strain first detected in Wuhan, China.

On Monday (Jun 7), U.K Health minister Hancock said before Parliament that the government believed that the delta variant was 40 percent more transmissible than the alpha variant, also known as B.1.1.7, which was first detected in Britain. Scientists are still studying the matter.

A surge in infections in the U.K., driven by the variant, has thrown in to uncertainty U.K 's plans for a total reopening later this month.

A model released by a team of researchers at the University of Warwick last month warned that if the delta variant were 50 percent more transmissible than the alpha variant.

'No data to show children will be seriously infected in subsequent Covid-19 waves': AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria



"There is no data - either from India or globally - to show that children will be seriously infected in subsequent waves," Dr Randeep Guleria said. Pic - NDTV

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Director Dr Randeep Guleria on Tuesday (8 June) said that there was no data available either in India or globally which could suggest that the subsequent Covid-19 waves are going to cause severe illness in children.

"It is a piece of misinformation that subsequent waves of the Covid-19 pandemic are going to cause severe illness in children. There is no data - either from India or globally - to show that children will be seriously infected in subsequent waves," Dr Guleria said during a media briefing on Covid-19, held at Press Information Bureau's National Media Centre in Delhi, reports Swarajya.

Dr Guleria said that 60 to 70 per cent of the children who got infected and were admitted to hospitals during the second wave in India, had either comorbidities or low immunity. Healthy children recovered

with mild illness without need for hospitalisation, the AIIMS Director said, according to a Ministry of Health statement.

He also urged people to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour to avoid future waves of the pandemic, as one of the main reason behind a wave can be human behaviour.

"Whenever cases increase, there is a fear in people and human behaviour changes. People strictly follow Covid appropriate behaviours and non-pharmaceutical interventions help break the chain of transmission. But when unlocking resumes, people tend to think that not much infection will happen and tend to not follow Covid appropriate behaviour. Due to this, the virus again starts spreading in the community, leading potentially to another wave," Dr Guleria said.

Interview: Philippe Hein, International Consultant & Economist

“The population in its wisdom will continue to choose political leaders which it feels are in the country’s best interests”

Philippe Hein has co-authored with his wife, Catherine, 'From Gloom to Bloom - The Path to the Development Success of Mauritius 1968-2020', a book which gives an account of the development path that Mauritius chose to pursue since Independence, the outcome of which resulted in the "Mauritian Miracle" as qualified by Devesh Roy & Arvind Subramanian in an IMF Working Paper in 2001. Can that success be replicated in the current circumstances, and what conditions would be required to achieve that objective now and post the Covid-19 pandemic?

These are amongst the issues addressed by P. Hein in today's interview.

Philippe Hein had been with the Mauritius Employers Federation, after a short stint in the education sector. He moved on to become an executive director at Rogers, before embracing an international career at the UN as Senior Economist, in which capacity he has looked after programmes to assist Small Island Developing States, as well as Coordinator of the Integrated Framework (If) for Trade-Related Technical Assistance for Least Developed Countries, etc.

Mauritius Times: Your book 'From Gloom to Bloom - The Path to the Development Success of Mauritius 1968-2020' provides an account of how Mauritius made it. What does your study of its development path inform you about the influence of politics thereon? Was it good politics all the way or a mix of good and bad?

Philippe Hein: I am not familiar with any metrics to judge the quality of "politics". What is crucial for success are good policies, designed and implemented under the direction of politicians in power.

In our book, we support the quasi-unanimous opinion of observers that **policies** pursued by Mauritius were all along development-oriented and well-suited and appropriate to the circumstances of the country. In fact, it is remarkable that irrespective of parties or alliances in power, there has been a broad consensus on and continuity of economic, social and foreign policies. This is illustrated by the similarity of the main electoral programmes presented since at general elections since the 1980s.

One of the key aspects of policy has been to recognize that the main asset of Mauritius is its literate labour force. In order to utilize this asset, the policy has been to make it attractive for employers to create employment in productive activities, as opposed to the former system of "relief work". For this purpose, the "cost of employment" was kept as low as possible (wages and salaries were kept relatively low, social security costs were not charged to employers - as done in many other countries -, and the former restrictive provisions for termination of employment lifted). These low wages were made acceptable to the population since government provided free education and health, subsidized

“Two issues need more focus in the future if we want to maintain good living conditions for our children and grandchildren: one is protection of the environment, particularly fragile in a small island country, and making stricter building and spatial planning norms and enforce them. The other is to address the issues related to the declining workforce (which has started in 2017) and of an ageing population...”

some essential products and housing, transport in some cases, and a non-contributory pension.

This being said, we draw attention to a number of imperfections and failures to meet challenges. For instance, little attention was paid to environmental issues, and the carbon footprint of Mauritius remains high; the drug problem has become increasingly serious over the years and has not been effectively addressed. Even as regards the Export Processing Zone, whose transformational success and impact we document, we have a section on "Some hiccups in its implementation".

*** Are the political conditions available today in the country conducive to producing the same kind of outcome of the 80s, or at the very least reigniting the engines of growth?**

The overall constitutional framework under which political parties operate and their mode of functioning appear to be rather similar now as they were throughout the period covered in our book. The engines of growth have been stopped by Covid-19. This crisis is a worldwide phenomenon presenting unforeseen challenges - and is ongoing. It would therefore be unwise for anyone to pass judgement at this time on which country navigated this pandemic better than any other, or whether a government with a different configuration would have done a better job than the one actually in charge.

In any event, "political conditions" are the result of the expression of the will of the people, and, as long as the democratic process is not impaired, we need to have confidence that, as it has done before, the population in its wisdom will continue to choose political leaders which it feels are in the country's best interests.

*** The times and the economic landscape have changed from what they were in the 1970s. Moreover, Covid-19 has introduced a high degree of uncertainty in the equation. An already bad economic situation for Mauritius, according to some economists, has been made worse by the pandemic. What do we need to do to drive out the gloom that has set in?**

It is true that in the last years just before the onset of the pandemic there had been a slowdown in the economic performance of the country. This is partly due to the loss of pre-



“It is true that, as in almost all countries, income distribution has tended to widen somewhat in recent years. It is a real challenge to implement income equalisation without pulling those at the top down (and lowering the average). The solution is to improve upward mobility through education, although in Mauritius, much has to be done to enhance the quality and relevance of education...”

ferential conditions for sugar in the European Union which had all but disappeared by 2018 and the revision of the exceptional conditions with India on Double Taxation, which took effect during the last years of the 2010s.

At the same time, there has been a certain tendency to take the success for granted and a relaxation in the pursuing of competitive policies, with the implementation of excessive increases in public expenditures on unproductive projects, which had a negative impact on growth. In addition, in recent years, we quote several indicators which point to poor governance and increased corruption, which contribute to undermining confidence in Government from economic and social actors and citizens in general.

● Cont. on page 9

'There is no reason to believe that today's entrepreneurs are any less dynamic or public-spirited that those in the early days after Independence'

● Cont. from page 8

* Besides favourable political conditions, it will also take a new breed of entrepreneurs, hopefully public-spirited as well - like we had in the early years post-Independence, to do the right thing for their purse and the country. The focus unfortunately has been on real estate development with the IRS, ERS... schemes. Is that sustainable?

There is no reason to believe that today's entrepreneurs are any less dynamic or public-spirited that those in the early days after Independence. On the contrary, the rise in the education levels and the attraction of foreign businessmen have increased the diversity of persons with new projects.

I agree that there has been an overemphasis on real estate projects, but the development of the right kind of IRS/ERS itself requires entrepreneurial skills, and the presence of foreign high net worth individuals has directly and indirectly initiated new productive projects.

* The Global Business Sector has done well so long the DTA with India contained favourable terms for the sector, but we have not had the same measure of success in developing the various hubs that have been talked about, especially in budget speeches down the years - for instance, the education/medical hubs, the blue economy, and recently there has been talk on Artificial Intelligence, bitcoin... What do you think is coming in the way?

The economy continues to diversify, and it is a good idea to try and develop new hubs, but government need not be too directive and specific in this process. In this regard, the experience of the EPZ is relevant: there was never any targeting of a textile, electronics, jewellery, toys or leather goods hub. It was ex-post that it was found that the textile/clothing sector had become most successful, to the extent that Mauritian firms have expanded outside Mauritius.

In order for hubs to work, they must be initiated by entrepreneurs themselves who are best placed to advise on the specific framework and incentives applicable to their particular sub-sector.

* It's being said the current pandemic provides us with a once in a 100-year chance to shake up the system and revisit the economic structures and policies. What's your take on that?

The post-Covid world will indeed be very different. But many new actions and initiatives may be undertaken without having to fundamentally "shake up the system" and "revisit the economic structures". As we say in the book, it does not

“Continuity in building our future by enhancing the quality of our main assets, the population, is more than ever needed; continuation of a mixed economy with a close cooperation between government with the business sector is also essential. Finally, whereas it is desirable for Mauritius to be more self-reliant in some sectors, at the same time our future will necessarily continue to be mostly determined, as it always has been, by our ability and agility to conduct productive exchanges with the outside world...”



Catherine and Philippe Hein

mean that we should replicate the specific measures that were successful in the past. But many of the present structures, assets and institutions need to be built upon and modernized, not cast away.

Continuity in building our future by enhancing the quality of our main assets, the population, is more than ever needed; continuation of a mixed economy with a close co-operation between government with the business sector is also essential. Finally, whereas it is desirable for Mauritius to be more self-reliant in some sectors, at the same time our future will necessarily continue to be mostly determined, as it always has been, by our ability and agility to conduct productive exchanges with the outside world, and insert ourselves in the global economy.

* Besides the effectiveness of the vaccination rollout and the reopening of our borders to tourists, what more do you think the Government can do or should be doing in the 2021-2022 next budget to get the economy back on its feet?

There is no magic solution. Sacrifices are already being made by the population through the rise in the cost of living due to the depreciation of the rupee, and by some small shareholders who depended on dividends to make ends meet.

More sacrifices will no doubt be made by all, with Government setting the good example. For instance, do we really need so many physical embassies abroad (e.g. Cairo) at a time when most relations and exchanges may be conducted from a distance? Could senior government and parastatal officials be provided with less luxurious cars and at longer intervals? And so on.

Three broad suggestions: a first requirement in addressing the present crisis is to recognize that there is one -- and

not paper over its seriousness. Second, have continuity and predictability in policies to give confidence to entrepreneurs and investors. Third, it is necessary to take concrete steps (rapid response unit?) to ensure predictability, transparency and celerity in the decision-making process for new projects.

“The engines of growth have been stopped by Covid-19. This crisis is a worldwide phenomenon presenting unforeseen challenges - and is ongoing. It would therefore be unwise for anyone to pass judgement at this time on which country navigated this pandemic better than any other, or whether a government with a different configuration would have done a better job than the one actually in charge...”

* As regards the human factor, we do not have the extreme level of poverty that existed in the country many decades ago, and it's good living in Mauritius so long as one is well off or doing reasonably well and for other reasons as well. What are your thoughts thereon?

In all countries life tends to be easier for those who are better off than for those who are not. But, for the poorer groups, Mauritius continues to have one of the most comprehensive social safety nets among developing countries - and even some developed ones. All social indicators have continued to progress.

It is true that, as in almost all countries, income distribution has tended to widen somewhat in recent years. It is a real challenge to implement income equalisation without pulling those at the top down (and lowering the average). The solution is to improve upward mobility through education, although in Mauritius, much has to be done to enhance the quality and relevance of education. This concerns not only the basic subjects, such as languages and mathematics, but also areas like sports, art and music, where young persons from disadvantaged backgrounds can often excel.

* Are we missing out on some particular issues that might roll back the feel-good climate in Mauritius, and what should we do about it?

In Mauritius there is much free debate, including in the press, about what different persons and groups feel needs to be improved or is threatening the country's future, so that few issues are missed.

In my view, two issues need more focus in the future if we want to maintain good living conditions for our children and grandchildren: one is protection of the environment, particularly fragile in a small island country, and making stricter building and spatial planning norms and enforce them.

The other is to address the issues related to the declining workforce (which has started in 2017) and of an ageing population. This involves developing a coherent policy for admission of foreigners on a temporary, or permanent basis, so as to maintain output and productivity. There are already efforts to attract back members of the diaspora, but these should be pursued more aggressively. Another suggestion is to give a favoured status to the children and grandchildren of Mauritians born abroad with a simplified path to nationality.

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

4th Year No 163

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 20 September 1957

• *Our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our deeds. -- George Eliot*

Malaya's Fight for Freedom

By Doojendranath Napal

Malaya is essentially a land where Islam flourishes. The majority of the population consists of Malays who profess the Mohammedan faith. It is this Malay bloc which is the source of power of Tengku Abdul Rahman though he is reinforced by alliances with the Chinese and the Indians and Pakistanis. The latter occupy the position of a minority community. The Chinese number 2,500,000 and the Indians and Pakistanis combined 800,000. Malaya became independent on the 31st August last.

they began to give their support to that party, urged to this course by national sentiment. On the eve of World War II, the M.C.P.'s strength rose to 37,000 members. The tide, however, turned against them, when the Japanese occupied Malaya. Almost all their leaders were arrested and executed. But undaunted, the Communists secured the alliance of the Chinese and Malayan nationalists and formed the People's Anti Japanese Army.

Sir Gerald Templer assumed office as High Commissioner in 1952. He immediately set about to take the offensive against the Communists and, by 1954 he could boast of having almost pacified the country. In his own words, the Communist fight had become by that time one for bare survival. A year before, Malaya had entered in its

Delimitation Commission.

Soon two political parties, the United Malay National Organization (UMNO) and the Malayan Chinese Association (MCA) appeared on the scene. Acting in concert, they sent representatives to London to criticize the Secretary of State's proposals and to press the demand that 3/5 of the Members of Council should be elected. The UMNO and the MCA did not sheepishly accept the Secretary of State's decision. They announced in a joint statement on the 13th June 1954 their resolution to boycott all representative councils by directing all councillors of their party to resign before the 23rd of June.

The High Commissioner (Sir Donald Charles MacGillivray, who had succeeded Sir Gerald Templer on the 1st June 1954) assured them that he would consult the leaders of the majority before making appointments to the reserved seats in the Legislative Council. Thereupon the boycott was called off. Malaya was successfully making use of boycott, a classical weapon in the fight for freedom, first made use of by Mahatma Gandhi. It showed, as Ghana and British Guiana had done before, that Governors and Secretaries of State can revoke their decisions if only sufficient pressure is made on them.

On the 25th July, 1955, the elections were held in Malaya under the revised Constitution. The UMNO, MCA and the Malayan Indian Congress formed a triple alliance under the leadership of Tengku Abdul Rahman. They won 51 of the 52 elected seats. Their opponent, the Parti Negara, the National Party failed to secure any seat, the remaining seat being won by the Pan-Malayan Moslem party.

The new Legislative Council was inaugurated in the presence of Alan Lennox-Boyd. Tengku Abdul Rahman stressed that his government's policy should be independence for Malaya and that talks should be opened with the Secretary of State to achieve this objective. He said that through independence alone Malaya could be helped "along the road to peace and prosperity and saved from Communism". Britain had either to accede to Malaya's demands or hand it over to Communist control. He also said:

"If the High Commissioner vetoes Bills passed by us, we are not working for the people and we might as well walk out. I can see no immediate crisis arising from proposed legislation. Naturally we are not anxious to clash. But I cannot rest until this matter of veto power's is finally settled."

Tengku Abdul Rahman hoped that "Malayanisation" of the public services and the transfer to Malayan control of internal security and defence would take place by 1959. But his hopes have been realised sooner than he himself expected.

In this achievement there is one lesson for all colonial peoples yet struggling for autonomy – if the leaders really know what they are out for, and want it with determination, Great Britain cannot and will not oppose. Whether they want autonomy or not is for the leaders to decide. It is for them to plan and devise means. They are the makers of history. Whether they succeed or fail depends on them. However, if a colony's constitutional struggle is no more than a record of one surrender after another to the forces of reaction, how such a colony can go ahead on the road to autonomy is beyond human understanding.



Banners during the first ever elections, 1955. Pic - cilisos.my

It may appear strange that a colony where the first legislative elections were held only two years ago should in so short a time achieve independence. Where lies the secret of Rahman's success? A glimpse of Malaya's recent history will throw light on this question.

Prior to 1953 when Malaya entered into the present phase of her development, that is the achievement of independence by constitutional means, she had to face the ever-present danger of becoming a Communist dominated country. As early as 1924 Chinese Communist agents had penetrated Malaya. In 1930 the Malayan Communist Party (M.C.P.) was formed. The M.C.P. from the first knew where lay the secret of power. It realised the importance of trade unions. By 1963 it had assured the support of the workers and could with success organise labour unrest throughout the country. Workers of all races in Malaya after the failure of negotiations came out on strikes at the bidding of Communists who, in due course, came to control the Malayan labour movement.

The Malayan Chinese at first kept aloof from the M.C.P. but when the Japanese attacked China in 1937,

second phase: independence by constitutional means.

The exchange of dispatches between the High Commissioner and Sir Gerald Templer revealed that the latter had rejected both proposals in favour of a compromise proposal of his which the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Oliver Lyttelton, accepted. This proposal put it that the Council should consist of 99 members of which 52 to be elected and 43 nominated. Among the nominated members, 22 were to represent "scheduled interest", of which more than half were to be representatives of trade unions. It may be noted *en passant* that in our own island representatives of trade unions are not nominated as Council Members. They are too weak to fight elections for themselves. Nor have they been able to impose themselves on political parties. Consequently, in past elections they have been playing a secondary role.

The Secretary of State also accepted the adoption of adult universal suffrage, direct elections by a majority vote in the territorial constituencies, disregarding communal distinctions and the appointment of a Constituency

Is tax avoidance ethical?

● Cont from page 2

Thinkers from Immanuel Kant to John Rawls have offered what has been called the deontological argument. This emphasizes ethics based on adherence to rules, regulations, laws and norms. Such an approach suggests that “what is right” is defined as that which is most in line with an individual’s responsibility and duty toward society.

Meanwhile, utilitarian philosophers such as John Stuart Mill and Jeremy Bentham put forward an argument that recognizes the costs and benefits, or even trade-offs, in pursuing what is right. Under this belief system, called consequentialism, behaviours are ethical if the outcome is beneficial to the greatest number of people, even if it comes at a cost.

A third perspective comes in the shape of what is called the virtue ethical foundation that is associated with Aristotle and other Greek philosophers. This suggests that what is right is that which elevates the individual’s virtues and efforts toward moral excellence – defined by both avoiding vices and striving to do good. In this way, ethical behaviour is that which enables the individual to achieve his or her most excellent moral self.

On morals and money

When applied to the tax avoidance strategies of individuals, each perspective offers a unique understanding of why individuals differ on what they view to be “right.”

An individual who adopts the deontological perspective likely evaluates a public figure’s tax avoidance strategies – and that of others – with less scrutiny. As long as an individual follows the tax code, and



Pic - Pixabay

acts legally, the tax avoidance strategies are likely to be viewed by that individual as ethical.

In contrast, a consequentialist is likely to evaluate tax avoidance strategies by also looking at how those taxes could have been used to benefit society – by paying for schools and hospitals, for example. When one individual – be it a billionaire or any other person – avoids taxes, it increases the costs experienced by everyone else while also decreasing the benefits experienced by society as a whole. The cost to society in terms of lesser funding for programs and services supported by tax dollars may be even greater when a wealthy individual avoids

taxes, given what is likely a higher tax responsibility than that of individuals with modest incomes. Thus, consequentialist individuals may well conclude that tax avoidance strategies are unethical.

An individual who adopts the virtue perspective of Aristotle might evaluate tax avoidance strategies in the context of an individual’s other virtuous behaviours. If someone avoids taxes but provides financial support to other institutions or entities that are meaningful to the tax avoider but also produce benefits for society, then the virtuous individual may view this behaviour with less disdain. For example, someone may use tax avoidance strategies and direct some wealth to provide

funding directly to an academic health care center for cancer research. But if that person employs tax avoidance strategies in the absence of any other virtuous behaviours, then the tax avoidance is likely to be seen and rationalized as unethical.

Social influencers

So whether tax avoidance strategies are viewed and rationalized as ethical or unethical likely depends on the ethical foundations of the person judging such actions.

But when it comes to public figures and the superrich, there are additional ethical concern at play here. Public figures are evaluated not just on their own personal morality, but also by what influence their behaviors could have on others. If the superrich avoid taxes, it might signal to the public to do the same, which could have greater consequences. The public often demands more of the superrich – and ethics are no exception. The expectation is that these individuals, as leaders in society, should create benefits for society through their behaviours. As a result, these individuals may be held to a higher ethical standard and their behaviours more closely scrutinized.

As such, the question of whether the tax avoidance strategies of the ultra-wealthy are “ethical” depends not only on the ethical foundation of the individual who views and judges the behaviour, but also on the expectation of the ultrawealthy to create benefits for society.

Erin Bass,

University of Nebraska Omaha







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PROGRAMME DES COURSES

5è Journée samedi 12 juin 2021

THE RACETIME TROPHY

1500 m - Valeur Benchmark 51 - 14h00

1 Consul Of War	CD	1-1-3-3-2	60	S.Rama	9	380
2 Hubble	SJ	1-1-1-7/7	60	J.Allyhosain	1	290
3 Seattle Kid	CD	1-1-1-3/6	60(-4)	M.Sonaram	8	380
4 Charleston Hero	VA	3-1-1-8/R	59.5	B.Fayd'herbe	2	700
5 Mambo Rock	GR	2-2-2-3-2	58.5	B.Bhaugeroothee	4	650
6 Rocky Night	SN	0-7-6-6-10	58.5	T.Juglall	3	3500
7 Sir Bernadini	P	3-4-7-1/7	58.5	O.Sola	7	1600
8 Big Voice Jack	SN	0-4-6-1-1	58	D.Bheekary	6	750
9 Captain Flynt	GR	0-0-0-6-7	57	B.Sooful	5	800
10 Choir Of Angels	JHM	1-2-7/7-R	57	K.Kalychurun	10	4000

7

THE FARRIERS CUP

1365 m - Valeur Benchmark 31 - 15h45

1 Copenhagen	VA	7-10-3-4/2	60.5	B.Fayd'herbe	1	290
2 Jals Tiger	GR	7-1-3-3/2	60.5	B.Sooful	2	650
3 Carlton Heights	AS	3-4-1-9/3	59.5	S.Rama	3	3000
4 Hardwired	P	0-0-5-2/1	59.5	K.Kalychurun	6	270
5 Nikhils Inn	PM	0-0-0-0-3	59	J.Allyhosain	5	500
6 Master Jay	G	7-7-N-2/2	58.5	S.Donohoe	4	290
7 Starsky	CD	1-6-6/8-8	57(-4)	M.Sonaram	7	3500

8

THE TUB THUMPER PLATE

1600 m - Valeur [0-25] - 16h20

1 Dreamforest	CD	6-3-5-5/3	61.5(-4)	M.Sonaram	8	4000
2 Flowerscape	RG	2-3-4-1/2	61	J.Allyhosain	5	2300
3 Lead Singer	P	0-0-3-7/9	61	O.Sola	6	1400
4 Mr Green Street	RM	2-2-4-9/7	61	P.C.Orffer	7	470
5 Siberian Husky	CR	3-9-7-4/5	61	D.Bheekary	3	700
6 Grey Again	RG	0-6-7-4/5	60	B.Bhaugeroothee	1	1000
7 Crushing Force	JMH	0-0-0-1/8	59	B.Sooful	2	420
8 Eagles Vision	SPN	8-6-2/8-R	59	K.Kalychurun	4	2500

S E L E C T I O N S

1. Newsman, Captain Falcon, Dunzie
2. Winter Guard, Manolete, Yankee Force
3. Memphis Mafia, Paddingtons Luck, Potawatomi
4. Hubble, Consul Of War, Mambo Rock
5. Prince Of Persia, Huyssteen, Prince Of Venice
6. Break The Silence, Footy Goal, Global Spectrum
7. Copenhagen, Master Jay, Jals Tiger
8. Flowerscape, Crushing Force, Dreamforest

5

THE BOTANIQUE CUP

990 m - Valeur Benchmark 56 - 14h35

1 Huyssteen	RG	7-2-1-4-1	61	J.Allyhosain	3	370
2 Prince Of Persia	G	4-3-5-1/3	61	S.Donohoe	4	300
3 Brilliant Disguise	CR	nouveau	60.5	B.Bhaugeroothee	8	600
4 Etched In Blue	JMH	nouveau	59	S.Rama	1	1000
5 Kazaar	P	4-5-3-5-7	59	O.Sola	2	3000
6 Pop Icon	SPN	nouveau	59	K.Kalychurun	5	700
7 Silken Prince	SH	3-1/8-5/9	58	T.Juglall	9	2000
8 Prince Of Venice	PM	0-0-0-0-5	57	B.Sooful	6	300
9 Henry Tudor [EA]	CD	2-6-6-9/9	56.5	-----	7	---

6

THE RAOUL HALBWACHS CUP

990 m - Valeur 3 yrs Old - 15h10

1 Footy Goal	RM	nouveau	60	P.C.Orffer	4	240
2 Break The Silence	GR	0-0-0-0-3	56.5	B.Sooful	6	210
3 Take On Me	SPN	nouveau	56	O.Sola	1	1600
4 Domino Ruler	SPN	nouveau	52	K.Kalychurun	7	2000
5 Global Spectrum	RM	nouveau	52	S.Rama	5	1000
6 Oxford Blue	CD	0-0-0-0-7	52	M.Sonaram	2	600
7 Var's Elusion	SJ	nouveau	52	T.Juglall	3	500

**LAUGHTER
IS THE
BEST
MEDICINE**



I love you, Sweetheart!

A group of husbands gathered at a conference on 'How to maintain a loving relationship with your wife'.

They were asked: "How many of you love your wives?"

All raised their hands.

Then they were asked, "When was the last time you told your wife you loved her?"

Some men answered: "Today". Some others: "Yesterday"; the majority didn't remember.

The men were then told to take their cell phones and send the following text to their respective wives: "I love you, Sweetheart!"

Then the men were asked to exchange phones and read the response each wife had sent. Here are some of the messages received:

1. 'Where the hell are you?'
2. 'That was then, not now!'
3. 'I know you want to borrow money from me again! Forget!'
4. 'What have you done again? I won't forgive you this time!'
5. 'What do you mean?'
6. 'Is that a name of a new song?'
7. 'Am I dreaming!'
8. 'If you don't tell me who this message is actually for, you will die today.'
9. 'I asked you to stop drinking!'

10. 'May I know who is this?'
11. 'You should start seeing your psychiatrist again! This is not a good sign!'
12. 'What do you want?'
13. 'Is your mother coming to live with us again?'

Funny letters and notes

'As my mother-in-law has expired and I'm the only one responsible for it, please grant me 10 days leave.'

Bengaluru in 1996

'Since I have to go to my village to sell my land along with my wife, please sanction me one-week leave.'

Maharashtra in 2005:

'As I want to cut my son's head in Gaya, please leave me for two days.'

From an employee who was performing the "mundan" ceremony of his 10-year-old son in Jharkhand

'As I am marrying my daughter, please grant a week's leave.'

Leave Application from an employee who was performing his daughter's wedding in Hyderabad

'Since I've to go to the cremation ground at 10 o'clock and I may not return, please grant me half day casual leave.'

An employee applied for half-day leave, Gujarat

'I am suffering from fever, please declare one-day holiday for me.'

Another leave application found in

Bihar

'As I am studying in this school I am suffering from headache and the headache is paining, please grant me one day leave.'

A leave application to a Principal in Jamshedpur

'My wife is suffering from sickness and as I am her only husband at home I may be granted leave.'

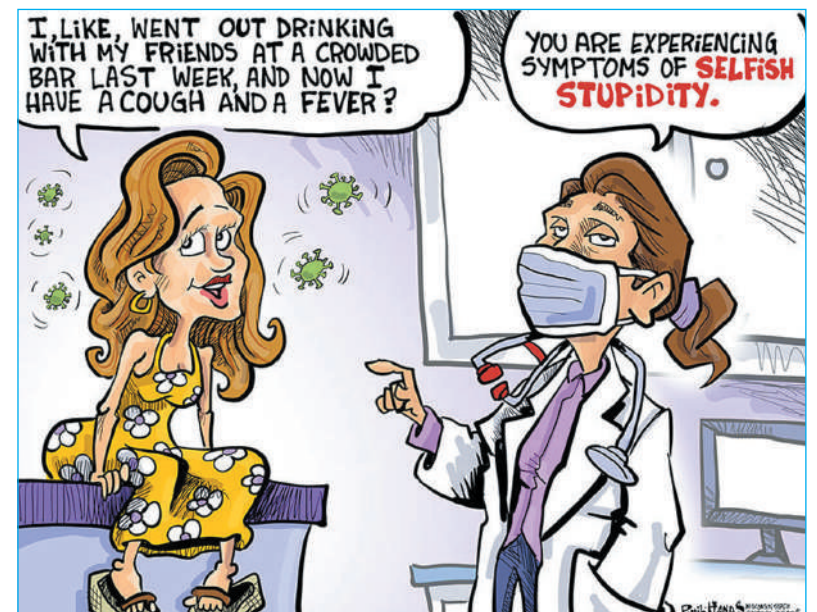
Leave application found in Kolkata

'Dear Sir, with reference to the above employment circular number, please refer to my bottom.'

Seen on the cover note of a job application:

'I am well here and hope you are also in the same well.'

Another funny letter found in bhubaneswar



Short Stories

The real meaning of peace

There once lived a king who announced to prize the artist who would paint the best painting depicting peace. Many great painters sent the king several of their best art pieces. One of the pictures among the various mas-

ter pieces was of a calm lake perfectly mirroring peacefully towering snow-capped mountains. Overheard was a blue clear sky with fluffy clouds. The picture was perfect. Most of the people who viewed the pictures of peace from various artist thought that it was the best among all.

But when the king announced the winner, everyone was shocked. The picture which won the prize had a mountain too but

it was rugged and bare. The sky looked very angry, there were lightning. This did not look peaceful at all. It looked like the artist has mistakenly submitted his painting depicting storm rather than peace. But if anyone looked closely at the painting, he could see a tiny bush growing in the cracks in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. In the midst of the rush of angry weather, the bird sat on her nest with peace.

The peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise or trouble. Peace means to be in the midst of all the chaos and still be calm in the heart. The real peace is the state of mind, not the state of the surroundings. The mother bird at her calm, despite her chaotic surrounding indeed was the best representation for peace.

Life's Stories

'Ramaiah Vastavaiya' & Raj Kapoor's 'Shri 420'

Ever wondered what does mean why two Telugu words were used for the beginning of a Hindi movie song.

The story behind it goes...

When Bollywood legend Raj Kapoor started making this movie, the music team used to go to Khandala to make songs. During such trips by all the four great musicians - Shanker, Jaikishan, Shailendra and Hasrat Jaipuri, they used to stop at a roadside hotel for tea and breakfast.

There was a working Telugu guy named Ramaiah there.

Shanker used to talk to him in Telugu and place the food order to him only, not to anyone else.

Shanker knew Telugu well as he was born and raised in Hyderabad,

During one visit to that roadside hotel, Shanker called Ramaiah to take the order.

Ramaiah signalled him to wait as he was busy with some other customer. As there was some delay in his coming, Shanker became a little impatient and started humming *Ramaiah Vastavaiya*. *Ramaiah Vastavaiya* meaning: Ramaiah, come quickly. To his words, Jaikishan started making tabla sounds on the serving table. This went on for a while; Hasrat got bored by this repetition and said to Shanker, "Only this much, nothing more?"

Then Shailendra immediately added *Mainey dil tujhuko diya*.

When both lines were sung together, they thought this could do well for a song, if continued further. After some time Ramaiah came over, took the order. This line and tune were told to RK; he was very impressed. He created a situation in the film and lyrics were written keeping these lines intact. They wanted to replace "*Ramaiah Vastavaiya*" line with some Hindi words, but no suitable words were found appropriate. So they retained original Telugu words. Although Hindi-speaking cinegoers could not understand their meaning, the song became a super hit.



'Healthy' Choices

9 Health Habits That Can Backfire

Not all choices are what they seem. Some that sound healthy -- like cutting out carbs and using a lot of hand sanitizer -- might actually have the opposite effect.

Drinking diet soda

While cutting down on sugar is good for you, artificial sweeteners may cause different issues. Studies show that people who drink diet soda tend to eat more, especially more high-calorie foods. They also usually have a higher body mass index (BMI). Your healthiest choice is always water. You can always add some flavour with things like raspberries, cucumber, mint, lemon, or lime.

'Catching up' on sleep

Sleeping in on the weekends sounds great, but it doesn't make up for not getting 7 to 9 hours a night during the week. It can actually mess with your body clock and make you feel groggy. You also might have trouble focusing or reacting. The best way to get back in rhythm is to go to bed earlier and wake up about the same time every day.

Drinking red wine

This popular choice has antioxidants called polyphenols that are thought to be good for your heart. In fact, no study has shown any definite health benefits of drinking red wine. You can still enjoy it in moderation -- one 5-ounce glass a day for women, two for men. But there's no reason to start drinking it if you don't already. And overdoing it with alcohol has been linked to heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, and certain cancers.



Cutting out carbs

Carbohydrates are a macronutrient -- they give you energy and serve as fuel for your muscles and your brain. So getting rid of them completely, as with the keto diet, may not be a good idea -- and it's not easy to give them up forever. It's a better idea to establish good habits you can stick with for the long haul, like having more carbs when you're active and fewer when you're not.

Juice cleanses or detoxes

These might sound like a good way to lose weight and give your digestive system "a break," but most of the weight loss is water. What's more, it deprives you of vital nutrients, like proteins and fats. Your lungs, liver, and kidneys are designed to remove toxins from your body, so the best eating plan is one that gives you the vitamins and minerals you need to keep those organs healthy.

Looking for 'healthy' labels

Just because a food is called "all natural" or "healthy" doesn't mean it's good for you. There's no official definition for either term, so both are open to interpretation. To truly understand how good (or bad) something is for you, read the nutrition facts label and the ingredients list. That's the only way to know what you're getting.

Relying on supplements

Your body needs a lot of different vitamins and minerals to work the way it should. It might seem easier to get them all in a pill. Some dietary supplements, like calcium, can help fill in gaps, but they're not meant to replace good nutrition. Your body can use several of those nutrients better if you get them through food.

Using hand sanitizer too often

Estimates say the convenience of making your hands germ-free without soap and water has helped make hand sanitizing a \$200 million business in the U.S. The alcohol base does prevent the spread of some germs, like *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph). But it's best to use it only when you need to. Studies show that the widespread use of it has led certain germs to grow stronger and, in some cases, make the sanitizers less effective.

Drinking bottled water

Studies have shown that bottled water isn't any better for you than tap water. In fact, government standards are higher for tap water. And some impurities, like microplastics, can reach the water from the plastic in the bottles themselves.

Reviewed by Melinda Ratini, WebMD

What to do when work stress messes with your relationship

We live in a time when everything is moving way too fast. Be it people's lives, their relationships, their career graph, or what not. Though all these things lead to success in many cases, for many people they lead to stress, anxiety, and broken relationships. Thus, it is very important not to get carried away in this race. Because if you don't do so, it will hamper all aspects of your life. Moreover, if work pressure is messing with your relationship, here's what you need to do.

Express what you are feeling to your partner

It is very important for your partner to know what you are feeling. This can only be done when you express this to them. They should know that it is the work pressure that's making you act in a certain way. This will also ensure transparency between the two of you. It will also be easier for them to help you deal with this.

Pursue a new or existing hobby together

If you have realized that your busy work schedule is affecting your relationship, it's time to do some damage control. Talk to your partner and think about pursuing a hobby together. Even if it's on a weekend or for an hour after work, the hobby will help you two bond and destress.



He
&
She

Socialize with friends and family regularly

Friends and family play an important role in your lives. They always have your back and you can behave naturally around them. Thus, try to be in touch with them as frequently as possible. It will help you get out of your

office mode and help you relax and bond with people.

Take out some time every day to relax and recharge

Once you are home, unplug from your digital devices and spend time with your partner. Listen to music while having dinner together or just take a walk in the nearby park. It doesn't have to be something exotic. Even the little moments with your partner count.

Indulge in some physical activity

Include some kind of physical activity in your daily routine. It can be anything from gymming to yoga to playing sports. This helps you destress and makes you feel positive along with getting fitter.

Reflect

Reflect on what you want out of life. Or ask yourself questions like is the work stress worth it? Or how would you feel if you were in your partner's place? All these will help you in getting some clarity and perspective of the things that have been happening.



Katrina Kaif to Priyanka Chopra to Malaika Arora...

9 actresses who fell in love with younger men

Today's biggest news is that Katrina Kaif 37-year-old is in reportedly in a relationship with 33-years-old Vicky Kaushal. Sonam Kapoor's brother Harshvardhan Kapoor has confirmed their romance.

During a chat with Zoom, when asked which industry relationship rumour he believes is true or a PR move, Harsh replied: "Vicky and Katrina are together, that's true," but quickly added, "Am I going to get in trouble for it?"

We have seen older actors romancing young actresses in showbiz, but now 'love' dynamics are changing quickly. The age bar has taken a back seat, and now many Indian celebrities are setting the example in this context. So, let us take a look at a few female actresses who fell in love with younger men.

We have seen older actors romancing young actresses in showbiz, but now 'love' dynamics are changing quickly. The age bar has taken a backseat, and now many Indian celebrities are setting the right example in this context. Newsable.asianetnews.com reports on a few female actresses who fell in love with younger men.

Priyanka Chopra and the international pop star Nick Jonas tied the knot in an extravagant wedding in Jodhpur in 2018. While the *Quantico* star is 37, Nick is 27-years-old. The couple has been trolled tremendously on social media for the 10-year age gap between them.

Malaika Arora, 47, is in a relationship with 35-year-old Arjun Kapoor. Malaika and Arjun's relationship had to face the negativity of trolls when they confirmed they were dating each other back in 2019.

Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, also have an age angle to their love story. Abhishek is two years younger than Aishwarya. They both were rumoured to have started dating during the making of Mani Ratnam's *Guru*. The duo tied the knot in 2007 and are blessed with a daughter Aaradhya Bachchan.

Shilpa Shetty is three months older than her businessman husband Raj Kundra. The two got married in 2009 and are blessed with a baby boy Viaan Raj Kundra.

Namrata Shirodkar married Telugu superstar Mahesh Babu, who is two years her junior, in 2005. Shirodkar met Mahesh on the sets of their movie *Vamsi*.

Karan Singh Grover was 34 years old, and Bipasha Basu 38 when they married on April 30, 2016. Earlier, Karan's mother was against this marriage because of the age difference, but she later agreed to their alliance.

Sunil Dutt married then-popular actress Nargis, who was just a year older and a bigger star than him. The two got close during the making of the 1957 hit movie *Mother India*.

'Fast and Furious 9' crosses 250 million dollar mark worldwide



The ninth *Fast and Furious* movie, F9, has crossed the 250 million dollars mark globally as per Variety. This is some achievement, since the film is yet to release in many major markets including North America, India, Europe, and others.

From China alone, the film has collected 203 million dollars, said Variety. Earlier the film opened globally with 160 million dollars worldwide.

The film brings back Vin Diesel's Dom Toretto. Michelle Rodriguez, Tyrese Gibson, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, John Cena, Jordana Brewster, Nathalie Emmanuel, Sung Kang, Helen Mirren and Charlize Theron also star in F9.

Justin Lin, who has also directed four other movies in the franchise, returns to helm F9.

The official synopsis of F9 reads, "Vin Diesel's Dom Toretto is leading a quiet life off the grid with Letty and his son, little Brian, but they know that danger always lurks just over their peaceful horizon. This time, that threat will force Dom to confront the sins of his past if he's going to save those he loves most. His crew joins together to stop a world-shattering plot led by the most skilled assassin and high-performance driver they've ever encountered: a man who also happens to be Dom's forsaken brother, Jakob (John Cena, the upcoming *The Suicide Squad*)."

F9 received positive to mixed critical reception. It is scheduled to be released on June 25 in the US.



Palak Tiwari's fans call her 'gorgeous beauty'

Shweta Tiwari's daughter and an upcoming actor herself, Palak Tiwari has been treating her fans to daily glamorous pictures on Instagram. She recently shared photos of herself dressed in a black outfit.

In the pictures, Palak is seen looking outside a window, peeking from behind an ivory curtain. She is wearing a strapless black gown with silver embroidery. She has her hair styled in loose waves and is wearing a bunch of silver necklaces.

Shweta is currently in Cape Town, South Africa, where she is shooting for the new season of *Khatron Ke Khiladi*. Other participants this season include Arjun Bijlani, Rahul Vaidya and Divyanka Tripathi.

Palak will make her acting debut with *Rosie: The Saffron Chapter*, which also stars Vivek Oberoi. He is also co-producing the movie under his banner, Oberoi Mega Entertainment. Arbaaz Khan and Mallika Sherawat will also be a part of the horror movie.

Film's director Vishal Mishra had said in a statement that he was impressed with Palak's acting skills. "It has only been a day but Palak has already left us impressed. She is the heart and soul of our film and she is extremely hard working and sincere," he had said.

Jason Momoa's Netflix film 'Sweet Girl' gets release on Monday

Shakti Arora feels content on TV needs to change, will return if he gets something as interesting as 'Silsila'



the current shows are not good, he does feel that the same cliches are being followed. He added how everyone continues to offer the same supernatural shows or even the typical love stories.

While talking about life after marriage, the actor stated how he feels they both are blessed as they spent some quality time at home and that is also when they realised how it is important to upgrade themselves. The actor quipped how he chose to learn new skills via online courses and given that their careers are rather uncertain, it is courses and studies that will always help since it is also important to earn money and live a good life.

About projects ahead, the actor said that the last year has been difficult and they have to wait and just focus on things to get better. As for work, he also added that he would definitely take up something if it is as interesting as his last show, *Silsila*.

Shakti Arora has been away from the television screens for the last two years. Recently, the actor got talking about how he spent his lockdown in an interview with ETimes TV, while also talking

about television content at large.

The actor said how he feels that TV needs to try newer concepts and move away from the regular stories. While he mentioned that he is not saying that

Arjun Bijlani: I am okay to go through the struggle again if I have to rebuild everything

He's known for being the chocolate boy on Indian television, but his aim has been to get out of that mould

He's known for being the chocolate boy on Indian television, but his aim has been to get out of that mould. And Arjun Bijlani has evidence to prove that it didn't become a hindrance in getting variety.

"It's not that I haven't experimented on TV, I tried to do different roles, and didn't get stuck on one particular image," maintains the actor.

The 38-year-old adds that being a star doesn't mean one can't take chances. He continues, "I know it's not easy, whether you are a star or not a star. It's always about what's next, how do you crack that character. I am okay to go through the struggle again if I have to rebuild everything. I have no qualms, because you have to be passionate about your craft. One might think 'I am a star on TV, this is the way it should be', but you have to understand that eventually you have got to work with the director."

Currently, Bijlani's focus is on doing work on the web, which is why he isn't taking up many things on TV. He is also sure that he won't give a nod to a web project just because it has titillating or bold content.

"I have been meeting people. When you try to shift a medium, it's not easy, you have got to do it the right way. The way TV functions is totally different



from how OTT functions. It depends on what kind of projects you want to be a part of, and the kind of scripts you crack for yourself. There is so much content for every age group. I want to do something which is more acting oriented. I don't want to be a part of any web series, which has no script but just bold scenes and bad language. OTT is a relatively new platform in itself, understanding and adjusting. With time, it will only get better I feel," says the actor.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You'll be so much centred on the achievement of your objectives. Chance will this time be on the side of the arts and science: university professors, art amateurs or critics, researchers, and scientists will be favoured.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 20, 21, 28, 31, 39

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Wait some time more before making important appointments or carrying out financial operations which imply big capitals. You'll do your best to answer the expectations of those who love you or depend on you.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 14, 19, 23, 24, 30

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Come down to earth quickly and try to remain there. In your work, your stubbornness and intransigence will irritate many people and won't serve your interests; it would be advantageous to be more flexible.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 20, 21, 23, 29, 30

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You'll realize that it's by no means impossible to conciliate work and private life if one shows good will, reflection, and organization. Love affairs will be promising for single people. You'll manage your finances efficiently.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 17, 20, 24, 30, 33

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Sentimental life will be well influenced; but understanding can be better if you show more goodwill, for instance by being less possessive. You'll have to control your passions which will heavily bear on your reason.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 10, 11, 20, 34, 39

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

You'll have better morale than lately. Even if you've concerns, you'll react positively by remaining aloof and by dramatizing nothing. Professionally, a financial or honorary reward will float in the air.

Lucky Numbers: 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You'll want to please and will be very much surrounded. Exchanges with other people will be very pleasant, and life make big smiles to you. Relaxation, good humour, and a balanced diet should put an end to certain unexplained fatigues.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 15, 17, 21, 25, 30

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Life in your home will be a little perturbed by concerns of a professional order; you should separate things and keep your family out of your work preoccupations; relationships will then be facilitated.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 12, 23, 24, 29, 36

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Beware, don't let yourself be intoxicated by your different successes and commit regrettable errors of judgment about people and things. You'll in all likelihood meet some major difficulties in your work.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 17, 19, 23, 27, 30

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

An atmosphere of détente will reign in your family circle; certain conflicts between parents and children will be solved and forgotten quickly, and all will feel happy to be together. You'll mobilize all your energies for the achievement of a plan dear to your heart.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 14, 18, 20, 30

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

If your ambitions are not too remote from concrete and reasonable things, then you can achieve many successes and secure a comfortable future for yourself. You'll experience a renewal of passion for the one who's sharing your life.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 10, 13, 24, 25, 30

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Think to look for the company of people who share your interests as well as your ideal. Your professional activities will benefit from extraordinary energy and vitality.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 12, 17, 23, 30

CINE 12

Vendredi 11 Juin - 21.15

Ghostbusters II

mbc 1

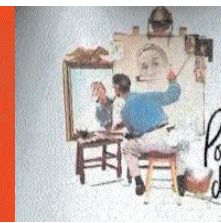
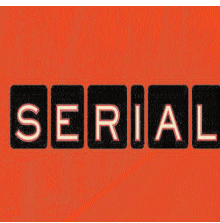
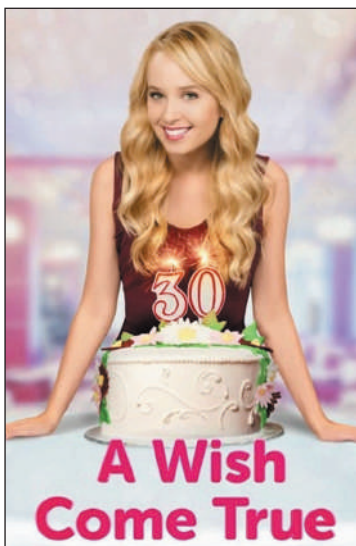
Samedi 12 Juin - 21.20

Maison à vendre, cœur à prendre

Starring: Julie Gonzalo, Tyler Hynes, Cardi Wong


mbc 1

Dimanche 13 Juin - 21.15



vendredi 11 juin

MBC 1

07.00 Dessin Anime
10.35 Serial: Oh Yuck!
11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
12.55 Doc: L'art Et La Matière
13.40 D.Anime: The Hive
13.48 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies
14.14 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau
14.37 D.Anime: Pet Alien
15.15 Film: The Amazing Zorro
16.30 Serial: Backstage
17.00 Live: Budget Speech 2021
19.15 Live: Samachar
20.10 Promo: Saying 2021
20.15 Journal & La Meteo
21.15 Serial: Seal Team
20.30 Local: MBC Prod
21.15 Serial: Seal Team
23.00 Le Journal
23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC

MBC 2

10.00 Serial: Ki Jaana Mein Kaun
11.03 Serial: Tawaan
12.04 Film: Jandhyala Raasina Premakatha
13.26 DDI Magazine
15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha
15.25 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.46 Serial: Bava Maradallu
16.07 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
16.36 Serial: Sila
16.52 Serial: Imtihaan
17.09 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.27 Serial: Chhanchhan
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone
18.30 DDI Magazine
19.05 Zournal Kreol
19.30 DDI Magazine
20.00 Local: Band Khirkiyan
20.43 Local: Anjuman
21.08 Local: Urdu Programme

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco India
06.26 Mag: Shift
06.38 Mag: Sur Mesure
07.52 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
08.19 Doc: 360 GEO
09.56 Doc: A Postcard From Pyon..
11.07 Mag: Eco India
11.46 Mag: Sur Mesure
12.35 Mag: Tomorrow Today
12.59 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
13.27 Doc: 360 GEO
15.47 Doc: From Vogtland To..
16.39 Mag: Shift
16.51 Mag: Border Crossing
17.17 Mag: Tomorrow Today
17.46 Doc: China's Cities
18.30 Mag: The World From Above
19.00 Student Support Prog..
20.05 Doc: Innovation On Board
20.30 Local: News (English)
21.40 La Vie Revee De Gaspard

Cine 12

00.54 Serial: 19-2
01.58 Film: The Quiet Hour
03.23 Serial: Shades Of Blue
04.04 Film: A Gift Horse
05.29 Tele: Muneca Brava
07.01 Film: Finding Altamira
09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible
09.45 Tele: Daniella
10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor
11.00 Serial: Shades Of Blue
12.00 Film: A Gift Horse
13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava
14.45 Film: Finding Altamira
16.41 Serial: Mission: Impossible
17.20 Serial: 19-2
18.05 Tele: Daniella
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor
20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
20.30 Serial: Night Shift
21.15 Film: Ghostbusters II
23.01 Tele: Muneca Brava

Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Mrityudand
12.05 / 19.54 - Sanjivani
12.30 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna
12.51 / 20.32 - Agnipheera
13.20 / 21.09 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
13.29 / 21.24 -
Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.53 / 21.46 - Naagin S3
14.35 / 21.59 - Sethji
14.56 / 22.25 -
Mere Sai - Shraddha Aur Saburi
15.21 Film: Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweetie
Starring: Kartik Aaryan, Nushrat Bharucha, Sunny Singh Nijjar
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka

samedi 12 juin

06.00 D.Anime: Mega Man
06.24 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz And..
06.46 D.Anime: Sissi, Jeune Impe..
07.13 D.Anime: Kid Lucky
07.35 D.Anime: The Twisted Whis..
07.59 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum..
08.22 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies
08.24 D.Anime: Martin Morning
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Daniella
15.00 D.Anime: The Hive
15.08 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies
16.10 Film: Bound
16.55 Serial: Project MC
17.10 Mag: Origami
17.30 Serial: Magic Mania
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Entertainment: Dance
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.25 Local: Le Rendez Vous
21.20 Film: Maison à Vendre, Cœur
23.00 Le Journal

07.00 Film: Anuradha
09.26 Serial: Vir: The Robot Boy
09.37 Serial: Chacha Bhatija
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
11.36 Serial: Bloody Romance
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare
12.24 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.47 Serial: High School
13.03 Annakodiyum Ainthu Pengalum
15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha
15.24 Film: Ranviir, The Marshsal
17.27 DDI Magazine
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 DDI Magazine
20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
20.28 Serial: Bitti Business Wali
21.01 Film: Vaastu Shastra
Starring Peeya Rai Chowdhary, J. D. Chakravarthy, Sushmita Sen

06.00 Doc: China's Cities
06.42 Mag: Arts And Culture
07.27 Mag: Euromaxx
07.56 Doc: Innovation On Board
08.22 La Vie Revee De Gaspard
09.56 Doc: The Digital Age
11.07 Doc: China's Cities
12.03 Mag: Global 3000
12.34 Mag: Euromaxx
13.03 Doc: Innovation On Board
13.29 La Vie Revee De Gaspard
14.21 Doc: Global Conflagration
15.33 Student Support Prog..
19.31 Mag: Check In
20.05 Doc: Volcano Stories
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.40 Doc: 360 GEO
21.40 Doc: Destinations
21.45 Doc: Profit Or Life?
22.27 Doc: Vincent Van Gogh..
23.09 Doc: When Food Becomes..
23.35 Doc: Amazing Gardens

01.41 Film: Ghostbusters II
03.29 Serial: Dynasty 2
04.05 Film: The Quiet Hour
05.35 Tele: Esmeraldas
06.18 Serial: Night Shift
07.00 Film: A Gift Horse
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.18 Serial: The Enemy Within
09.59 Serial: Incorporated
10.43 Film: Ghostbusters II
12.31 Serial: Dynasty 2
13.37 Serial: Shades Of Blue
15.05 Tele: Amanda
15.45 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.30 Mag: Hollywood On Set
17.00 Serial: Night Shift
17.45 Film: Peter Pan
20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
20.30 Series: Night Shift
21.15 Film: Billy Lynn's Long..
23.08 Tele: Dulce Amor

04.05 Sanjivani
04.26 Radha Krishna
04.48 Agnipheera
05.09 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
05.34 Zindagi Ki Mehek
06.44 Sethji
07.03 Mere Sai - Shraddha Aur..
06.36 Bin Kuch Kahe
07.12 Kundali Bhagya
07.34 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka
08.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek
10.04 Motu Patlu
10.12 Siddhi Vinayak
12.00 Serial: Bhakharwadi
14.00 Sanjivani
16.00 Pavitra Rishta
18.30 Film: Patel Ki Punjabi Shaadi
Star: Rishi Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Vir Das
20.25 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
21.11 Serial: Naagin

dimanche 13 juin

06.00 D.Anime: Mega Man: Fully..
06.25 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz and..
06.46 D.Anime: Sissi, Jeune Impe..
07.56 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum..
09.30 Mag: Future Mag
10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
10.30 Serial: Mustangs FC
12.00 Le Journal
12.40 Tele: Daniella
14.15 Local: Elle
15.05 D.Anime: The Hive
15.25 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz And..
15.49 Film: Barbie: Aventure Dans..
17.03 Serial: Project MC
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Local: Groov'in
21.05 Film: A Wish Come True
Stars: Megan Park, Benjamin Hollingsworth, Anthony Lemke

07.00 Film: Biradari
09.20 Serial: Bapu
10.11 Local: Love & Unity Concert
12.00 Film: Jolly LLL 2
Stars: Akshay Kumar, Huma Qureshi, Saurabh Shukla
15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha
15.19 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
15.42 Eka Lagnachi Teesri Gosht
16.05 Apoorva Raagangal
17.00 Mahakali
17.43 Kisna
18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
20.06 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas Hai
20.47 Serial: CID
21.32 Serial: Naagin Season 2
22.17 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki
22.59 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Amazing Gardens
06.26 Doc: Dream Job Or Rip-Off?
06.52 Doc: The World From Above
08.13 Doc: Destinations
08.26 Doc: Wedding The French..
10.43 Doc: When Food Becomes..
11.12 Doc: Amazing Gardens
12.04 Doc: The World From Above
12.30 Mag: Check In
13.38 Doc: Wedding The French..
17.42 Mag: Sur Mesure
18.00 Mag: Tendance XXI
19.00 Doc: Garden Party
20.05 Mag: Happiness Is On The..
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
20.40 Doc: Destinations
20.53 Doc: Comme Une Envie De..
21.45 Doc: The Wonderful World..
22.27 Doc: Helping Rape Survivors
23.23 Mag: Tendance XXI
23.49 Doc: Ville En Fête

00.20 Serial: Night Shift
01.14 Film: Billy Lynn's Long..
03.07 Serial: Emerald City
03.47 Film: Maison à Vendre..
05.17 Tele: Esmeraldas
05.58 Serial: Night Shift
06.40 Film: For The Love Of George
08.31 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.19 Film: Maison à Vendre..
10.47 Film: Peter Pan (2003)
12.37 Serial: Emerald City
13.16 Serial: Shades Of Blue
15.20 Telenovela: Amanda
16.04 Tele: Muneca Brava
17.00 Serial: Night Shift
17.45 Serial: Emerald City
18.30 Serial: Supercopier
20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
20.30 Serial: The Good Doctor
21.15 Film: Extraction
22.57 Tele: Dulce Amor

00.40 Serial: Bhakharwadi
02.15 Sanjivani
04.06 Pavitra Rishta
05.18 Film: Patel Ki Punjabi Shaadi
Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Vir Das
08.00 Motu Patlu
08.11 Karn Sangini
09.59 Jaana Na Dil Se Door
12.00 Piya Albela
13.33 Agnipheera
15.47 Bin Kuch Kahe
17.35 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Film: Saajan
Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Madhuri Dixit, Salman Khan
21.23 Entertainment: Dance
22.08 Bade Acche Lagte Hai

MBC 2

Samedi 12 Juin - 21.00

Stars: Peeya Rai Chowdhary, J.D. Chakravarthy, Sushmita Sen

B TV

Dimanche 13 Juin - 18.30

Stars: Sanjay Dutt, Madhuri Dixit, Salman Khanhan



Is 150 years really the limit of human lifespan?



Richard Faragher
Professor of Biogerontology,
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While most of us can expect to live to around 80, some people defy expectations and live to be over 100. In places such as Okinawa, Japan and Sardinia, Italy, there are many centenarians. The oldest person in history - a French woman named Jeanne Calment - lived to 122. When she was born in 1875, the average life expectancy was roughly 43.

But just how long could a human actually live? It's a question people have been asking for centuries. While average life expectancy (the number of years a person can expect to live) is relatively easy to calculate, maximum lifespan estimates (the greatest age a human could possibly reach) are much harder to make. Previous studies have placed this limit close to 140 years of age. But a more recent study proposes that the limit to human lifespan is closer to 150.

Calculating lifespan

The oldest and still most widely used method for calculating life expectancy, and thus lifespan, relies on the Gompertz equation. This is the observation, first made in the 19th century, that human death rates from disease increase exponentially with time. Essentially, this means your chance of death - from cancer, heart disease and many infections, for example - roughly doubles every eight to nine years.

There are many ways the formula can be tweaked to account for how different factors (such as sex or disease) affect the lifespan within a population. Gompertz calculations are even used to calculate health insurance premiums - which is why these companies are so interested in whether you smoke, whether you are married and anything else that might allow them to more accurately judge the age at which you will die.

Another approach to figuring out how long we can live is to look at how our organs decline with age, and run that rate of decline against the age at which they stop working. For example, eye function and how much oxygen we use while exercising show a general pattern of decline with ageing, with most calculations



Few people make it to 100. Pic - Shutterstock

indicating organs will only function until the average person is around 120 years old.

But these studies also unmask increasing variation between people as they grow older. For example, some peoples' kidney function declines rapidly with age while in others it hardly changes at all.

Now researchers in Singapore, Russia, and the US have taken a different approach to estimate the maximum human lifespan. Using a computer model, they estimate that the limit of human lifespan is about 150 years.

Living to 150

Intuitively, there should be a relationship between your chance of death and how rapidly and completely you recover from illness. This parameter is a measure of your ability to maintain homeostasis - your normal physiological equilibrium - and is known as resilience. In fact, ageing can be defined as the loss of ability to maintain homeostasis. Typically, the younger the person, the better they are at recovering rapidly from illness.

To conduct the modelling study, the researchers took blood samples from over 70,000 participants aged up to 85 and looked at short-term changes in their blood cell counts. The number of white blood cells a person has can indicate the level of inflammation (disease) in their body, while the volume of red blood cells can indicate a person's risk of heart disease or stroke, or cognitive impairment, such as memory loss. The researchers then simplified this data into a single parameter, which they called the dynamic organisms state indicator (Dosi).

Changes in Dosi values across the participants predicted who would get age-related diseases, how this varied from person to person, and modelled the loss of resilience with age. These calculations predicted that for everyone - regardless of their health or genetics - resilience failed completely at 150, giving a theoretical limit

to human lifespan.

But estimates of this type assume that nothing new will be done to a population, such as, no new medical treatments will be found for common diseases. This is a major flaw, since significant progress occurs over a lifetime and this benefits some people more than others.

For example, a baby born today can rely on about 85 years of medical progress to enhance their life expectancy, while an 85-year-old alive now is limited by current medical technologies. As such, the calculation used by these researchers will be relatively accurate for old people but will become progressively less so the younger the person you're looking at.

The Dosi limit for maximum lifespan is about 25% longer than Jeanne Calment lived. So if you're planning to beat it (and her), you need three important things. First is good genes, which makes living to be more than a hundred unassisted a good bet. Second, an excellent diet and exercise plan, which can add up to 15 years to life expectancy. And lastly, a breakthrough in turning our knowledge of the biology of ageing into treatments and medicines that can increase healthy lifespan.

Currently, adding more than 15-20% to healthy lifespan in normal mammals is extremely difficult, partly because our understanding of the biology of ageing remains incomplete. But it's possible to increase the lifespan of much simpler organisms - such as roundworms - by up to ten times.

Even given the current pace of progress, we can confidently expect life expectancy to increase because it has been doing this since Gompertz was alive in the 1860s. In fact, if you spend half an hour reading this article average life expectancy will have increased by six minutes. Unfortunately, at that rate, the average person won't live to 150 for another three centuries.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Healing Childhood Wounds

We all have the ability to heal ourselves from childhood pain at the deepest level.

Events from childhood, our first experiences, have the power to shape our lives. Some do so immediately, offering us challenges to overcome and encouragement to make use of our talents and interests. In the process character is built, and we make the first steps upon our personal paths. Other events seem to lay dormant until adulthood, when our closest relationships help to bring out the deepest aspects of ourselves. This is when unexamined lessons can be put to use and untended childhood wounds make themselves known in a call for healing.

We may discover issues of trust coming up, or perhaps we find ourselves mirroring actions from our past instinctively. No matter the case, we have the power within us to heal ourselves at the deepest level. With the wisdom of an adult, we can be the loving parent or guardian we needed as a child. Knowing that we are each whole spiritual beings having a human experience, we can nurture ourselves from that wholeness, and then reach out to others as well. We can recreate scenarios in our mind's eye, trying different outcomes and following them to their logical conclusions.

In doing so, we may be able to imagine possible reasons a situation occurred as it did, and even accept that it could not have happened any other way. With the wisdom born from age and experience, we might be able to see events from a different perspective, bringing new understanding and freeing ourselves from any hold the past may have on us.

Life offers opportunities to clear these weeds in the gardens of our souls. However, when we want to focus on easier and more pleasant tasks, we are likely to pass up the chances, leaving the wounds to continue to drain our energy and resources for living life fully today.

We might find we need support to face the events of the past, so turning to a trained professional who can offer tools for healing can be a valid choice. As long as we remember that the child we were lives on within us, we are always free to go back and right old wrongs, correct mistaken perceptions, heal wounds, forgive, and begin anew.