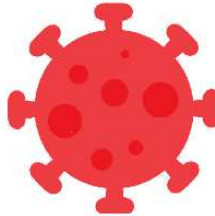
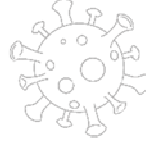


# HIBUGS, AVATAR AND OTHER COVID POEMS



Mysore Diwa Swapna

# HIBUGS, AVATAR

AND OTHER COVID POEMS

A collection of poems on Children

by M.D swapna

poems CV 1 to CV 25

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## **PREFACE**

The COVID-19 pandemic, caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), has emerged as one of the important events in recent times. The outbreak began in late 2019 in Wuhan, China, and swiftly spread across the globe, turning into a full-blown pandemic by early 2020. 'Pandemic' itself was a new word to refer to this.

The virus's highly contagious nature and the lack of immunity in the human population led to widespread infections. Air travellers were checked since they were the main carriers. Medical staff worked tirelessly. Research scientists got to work on: how to test for the virus, treat and prevent infection. The rapid development of multiple vaccines within a year showcased the potential of global scientific collaboration and innovation

Governments around the world took stringent measures to contain the spread, including lockdowns, travel restrictions, wearing masks and social distancing. Work from home and online education became common, transforming the way we work and learn..

COVID-19 has been a devastating global crisis that disrupted lives, economies, and societies. However, it has also been a catalyst for positive changes, driving innovation, cooperation, and a renewed focus on public health and environmental sustainability.

As we continue to fight against the virus the lessons learned will undoubtedly shape the future for the better.

This booklet contains some thoughts of this author as a layman [=ordinary public] in verse. These were written during the period 2021 to 2023 ..

A few poems by children on this topic taken from the world-wide web are included.

Points for parents [ to tell children] :

Virus is a bug or germ – it can be good or bad. This one was bad, very bad . Viruses are there in nature. This one was made in a laboratory . By mistake it escaped and spread all over the world. Diseases which go from one person [ or air, water etc] to another person were called epidemic. This virus spread too far. So it is called ‘pandemic’. Wearing mask and using sanitizer liquid were safety methods. ‘Safe social distance’ from people was also advised. No crowding, no big functions. .

The above points give background information.

M.D.Swapna [pen name]  
September. 2023

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## CV 1 HIBUGS

[Author gives a new name to Microbes]

BUGS that crawl can be seen  
But there are bugs unseen  
Haunting water air anything  
Certainly your hair and skin.

Wash off dust with water  
Any dust contains matter  
Even without bugs can harm  
One's lungs, belly , body or skin.

Dust or any other form of dirt  
Do certainly damage and hurt  
any machine's form and function.  
Our body is no exception.

Soap and water is a must  
For getting rid of dust, dirt  
Hiding bugs are everywhere  
Books, pencil, table, chair.

*Sonu asked :*

Uncle and aunt are good  
Must I worry about them , too?

*Uncle said :*

For 'hibugs' cells are food  
They can infect Sawaal and even you.  
Be watchful, you have nothing to lose  
Wash vessels, plates before use  
Hibugs can't be seen by just looking  
Wash vegetables before cooking .

***[hibug- author's word – specially coined for children -Hiding bugs***

***For elders: please tell children that the word used here is for very tiny small living things . microbes, microorganisms, mainly bacteria and virus ]***

### **Bacteria**



**Sphere-shaped  
(cocci)**



**Rod-shaped  
(bacilli)**



**Spiral-shaped  
(spirochetes)**



**Microscope**



**Electron microscope**



## CV2 ESCAPE OF THE EVIL

[It came recently]

1. Me: Biology is a bore.  
Need I say more?  
He: Biology is beautiful.  
Benefits are bountiful.

2. Me: Biology is a boring bugbear  
Let others study, I don't care  
He: Biology is multidisciplinary  
Excelling in it will be exemplary.

3. Me: Biology is merely heuristic.  
At best, it can be futuristic.  
He: Biology has a broad scope  
Hence, for us, it is the only hope.

*They (all the others):*

4. Microbiology is mind boggling  
to be learnt by sweating and slogging.  
Yet you will never get  
to the bottom of it.

Little knowledge is dangerous  
Many mysterious bugs are infectious  
With modern methods and ability  
Research must go with responsibility.

### **NEWS:**

5. Then came an unknown upstart  
with a technique like fine art  
created or stumbled upon a gene  
which escapes and becomes a mean  
pandemic virus-SARS COVID **ninteen.**

### CV 3 BIO-WAR

[Many people suspect this as a result of bad research]

It is raining, bring in the clothes.  
It may rain, bring in the clothes.  
Thanks to rain, I bring in the clothes.  
Clothes do not need the rain.  
But lives do, not once, again and again.

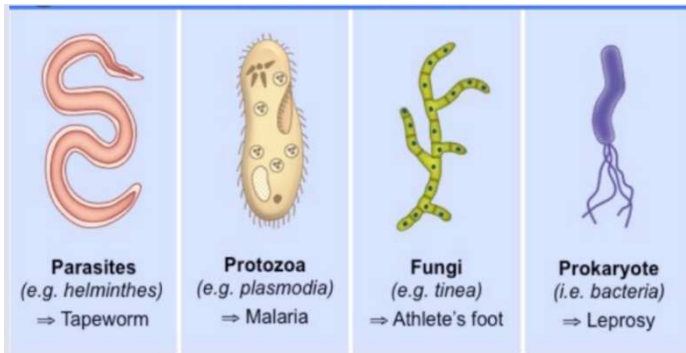
Thank heavens, the seasons are still there.  
Sunshine, rain, fragrance in the air.  
We hope, the virus is not lurking anywhere.

The virus had  
Threatened  
Infected  
Killed  
Inactivated  
impounded  
at least inconvenienced  
almost all the humans on the globe  
Corona is not a moron  
Else it would have affected  
all nature; bang right on;  
Perhaps it was meant for mankind.

Thanks to the rain and seasons  
the cow gives milk  
the grass grows green  
'primary producers' prosper  
The basic bedrock of biology  
of food and clothes  
of breathing and living  
of the cycles of gases

liquids, food and energy  
are going round as ever.

I abhor the day when  
pandemic or any pathogen  
will interfere in any of these;  
cause them to cease or decrease.



As soon as the dreaded covid  
totally leaves and ceases to be morbid  
Will mankind, for what it had done so far,  
repent and rue, and stop research on bio-war?.



## **CV 4 COVID AND WHO**

[ 3T's of WHO for the whole world]

1. Cursed Covid-19 came.  
Who deserves the blame?  
For a blunder of this size  
None is ready to apologize

2. Yet who took the message  
and technically face the pandemic?  
It is WHO, who took the task to assuage  
the global human's fear and panic.

3. Three lettered W.H.O.  
Three cheers to you!  
For handling the disaster now  
by taking up three T's that is how.

*[Note: W.H.O – World Health Organization  
3 T's- trace, test, treat]*



# **World Health Organization**

## CV 5 COVID AND A CEO

[Retrenches himself]

CEO is the highest level.  
A good one manages very well.  
When covid brought hell  
Even he could not tell  
Whom to retain  
It was really a pain  
To decide who should go  
And tell them so.

The esoteric eateries they run  
had to be closed one by one  
At the end of the year he found  
that he was the only one around

As the chief he exercised  
his will; axed posts at will  
After many send-offs he realized  
He was the only one standing still.

What a waste! He said to himself  
Now on whom will I show power and pelf ?  
It is high time that I let myself go  
He disappeared as befits a pro.

*[CEO- CHIEF EXECUTING OFFICER  
PRO – PROFESSIONAL  
WRITTEN AROUND 2022, CE]*

## CV 6 TAKE COVER

[Mask, Sanitizer, Social distance + Vaccine]

Inhale. Ingest, inlets let in everyone  
Not just fresh air , also pathogens  
“What will I do?” before you ask  
Scientists said, “Wear a mask”

They also found our hands which touch  
Are great carriers of the virus as much  
as any other; hence use a sterilizer  
The liquid made for us a sanitizer.

Evil one makes even your buddies suspect  
From an epidemic bug what else do you expect?  
Scientists suggest a simple way at once  
From everyone keep a safe distance

Preventive methods are these three  
One more is the vaccine given free  
By ill-luck those got ill , will  
go to special wards; there is hope still.



## **CV7 VIRUS AND OUR FUNCTIONS**

[It controls our daily habits]

1. Cut out the congregation

Cut out the noise.

What about the celebration?

Who likes, who enjoys?

2. Perhaps one of the eids,

Even the evening of Ramzan

Any festive occasion needs  
duties beginning from dawn.

3. Perhaps one of the poojas

Even the birthday of Krishna

Calls for chanting of mantras  
crowds and breaking of matka

4. Perhaps one of the chapel masses

Even the birthday of Christ

Collects congregation under crosses  
Gift or feast, either one may be first.

5. Perhaps the peaceful Parsees

Buddhists, Jains or other faiths

Ought to organize festivities  
To reach the day's holy heights.

6. Join up for joy

Eat together, enjoy

Pray with peaceful poise  
dance, sing, make din and noise.

7. Occasions, social or religious  
are made, just not for the pious,  
The public has to participate  
or else, how to celebrate?

8. In such a mindset  
came the virulent virus;  
All our activities are upset  
What does it teach us?

9. The virus taught us to be wise  
Celebrations can be made concise  
Fanciful fairs or festival fun  
At home in small groups can be done.

10. Calamities can be converted  
into events, calm and contented  
Pompous events can be inverted  
To achieve the original aim, intended.







## CV8 REVELERS, MY DELIGHT

[so says the virus. We say not to unnecessarily crowd]

1. White or yellow, black or brown  
does not matter for this one  
Covid virus covered with a crown  
affects all the races under the sun.
2. Once time and death were the levelers  
Now ill-health joins to make us equal  
SARS-Virus and its sequel  
say, beware ye, reckless revelers.
3. Crowding, mobbing, getting close  
was until now our way to celebrate  
birth, death, or any event one chose;  
Music and noise we used to equate.
4. A tiny unicell came and told us  
Microbes include the vile virus  
Be humane, be kind, be fair;  
But avoid unwanted crowd and fanfare  
Beware of your brother or even me  
Unless we are tested as virus free.



## **CV9 GOOD HABITS, NOW BAD**

[It controls our daily habits]

1. We used to walk,  
walk to school,  
walk to work  
walk for air  
walk for health  
walk for a cause.

We used to walk, walk in groups.

While we walk, we would talk;

Talk of weather, or news scoops

No gossips, walkers are made of decent stock.



2. We used to jog,

jog for health

jog for fitness

jog for breathing

jog for fun.

We used to jog,

jog in the parks or road.

While we jog,

we would keep logs

of hours and daily distances covered.

Joggers are orderly like disciplined dogs.



3. We used to workout  
stretch for health  
stretch for muscles  
stretch for joints  
stretch for sweat.

We used to work out and move  
towards body building part by part.  
Each one for his own lung and heart.  
No group, each one in his own groove.  
Yet gymmers would join  
for any worthwhile sojourn.  
Trek, hike or any job of pain  
will be welcomed in their turn.



4. We used to do yoga.  
Yoga for body  
Yoga for mind  
Yoga for mankind  
Yoga for peace.  
We used to do yoga alone  
or many living shavas in a line  
or in hundreds, clad like a clone.  
Yoga together is great like sunshine.  
*[shava- corpse, dead body]*

5. We used to chant and pray,  
pray for your soul  
pray for your child  
pray for all the sick  
pray for everyone.  
We used to sing, chant, prostrate  
at home as family or hundreds together  
Multitudes used to kneel and venerate  
The Great Soul who exists for all and forever.

6. Covid has come  
Groups have gone  
We all have become  
Individuals and alone.

7. Fear of covid says:  
There must be ways  
for common good we should find  
take the first step of broadening one's mind.

## CV 10 ALONE IS NOT LONELY

[Grandma feels lonely in the midst of company]

Many must have known  
that 'lonely is not  
the same as 'alone'  
The meanings I got  
not from any dic.,  
thesaurus or any book  
not from anyone sick  
but from Covid, the crook.  
*[dic., =dictionary.]*

The vily virus forced  
a lockdown everywhere  
The authorities enforced  
all to be as they were.

Our grandma was living alone  
in a big house of her own  
happily in her village  
despite her advanced age.

Then came the dreaded Covid scare.  
We decided she needed care  
Viral wave in the village or not  
We said she should be brought  
to where her kith and kin live.

We are all in one place, here;  
But none has time or will to hear  
her simple anecdotes, feelings or tales.  
None of the children, men or even females.  
With so many around she is not alone.  
Funny it may sound but surely  
she is lonely.

## **CV 11 LOCK-DOWN [1], [2], [3]**

[Author recollects methods & gadgets man used]

1. Covid-induced lockdown  
we are going through.  
Forget about leaving town  
even in streets we can't move.
2. Even vehicles have to be moved  
to be functional, when in need  
Tools have to be kept oiled and grooved  
Nothing can an idle life lead.
3. What if growing body and mind  
Suddenly could not, any means, find  
Be it exercise, learning or movement  
How about any scope for improvement?
4. Even the bed-ridden patients are told  
to tighten muscles, joints fold and unfold'  
Our children should compulsorily exert  
to keep body and mind fit and alert

### **LOCK- DOWN (2)**

1. Many parents have been indulgent  
Somehow manage money and spent.  
Got cycles or skates or home gym  
measures taken to make physique trim.
2. Do we know how to keep alert  
children's mind so that they can  
to school routine and studies revert ?  
What benefit will be, a web-scan?



3. I think parents, uncles can start  
to start newer skills for the sake  
of their wards; turn towards the art  
of working together, some items to make.  
Learn from summer camp schedules  
Acting, clay modelling, origami,  
swimming, cycling, many modules  
meant to work together bon-ami

### **LOCK-DOWN (3)**

1. Mental readiness is not easy to keep  
videogames, mobile apps are down-slope  
Practice, think, nudge challenge the brain  
to keep it free of rust, boredom and drain.

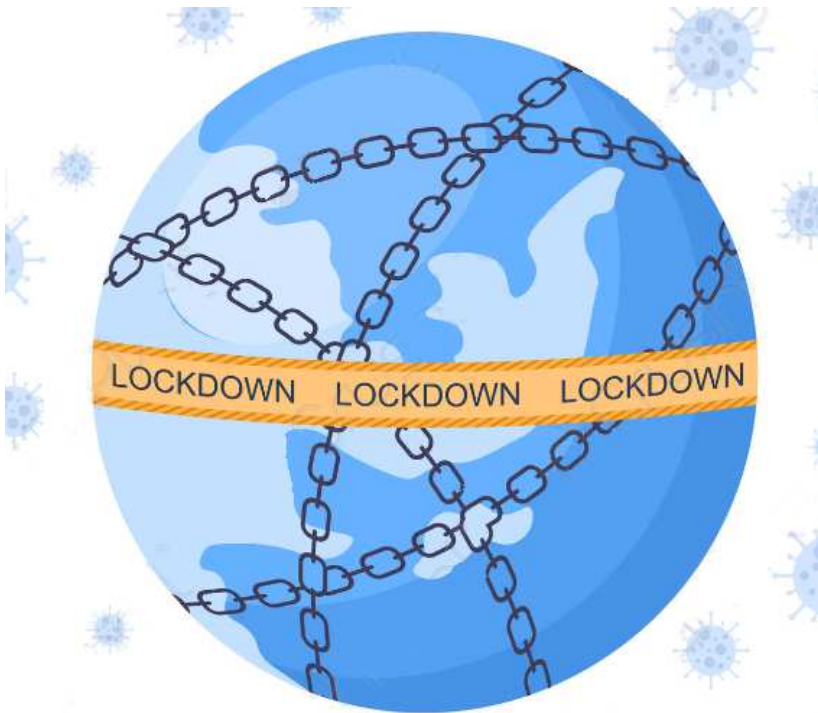
2. Scrabble, crossword, language games  
Exploring common words, proper names  
Fun with numbers, memorize tables, go  
And do mental arithmetic, if you're able to do.

3. Go back to our ancient custom  
Read, listen, repeat and chant  
verses, shlokas, proverbs, what may come  
to your mind, try; children may want  
the same or more of our culture.  
It is investment for everyone's future.

4. De-dust the atlas from the bottom shelf  
Buy a globe, turn and see, yourself;  
Find a letter or word from newspaper  
My suggestions are many; Parents must prepare.

5.Name the item on the dinner table  
and what it is made of and how;  
Children will join; if the elder is able  
to motivate, initiate even if with a little show.

6. If done, we gain.  
When things become normal  
and teaching restarts formal  
Your children will start to enjoy  
any subject, maths or any kill-joy



## **CV12 COVID VAX [1],[2],[3]**

[Vax is a new word for Vaccine,  
Isolation- Blessing in disguise?]

1. Virulent virus  
came from the east  
Death among us  
is THEIR family feast.
2. The humans who were mentally immune  
to all medical caution and advice  
spread the virus in the commune  
their own death is no use against the malaise
3. Soon it was found that none among us  
is immune to this one wild virus  
New drugs had to be designed  
Using genetic know-how so far gained.
4. Scientists did what they should  
Made vax and tested it double fast  
Hope the vaccines prove as good  
as faith or prayer or better as forecast.
5. The news media has a field day  
nay, field months  
Each self-styled expert has his say  
nay, even non-sense.
6. Meanwhile English lexicon grew  
with words shortened, or made anew;  
One has to be alert, not lax  
to know what is this vax.

Nurses' immunization job  
was reported as a jab.  
The odd clinical word, immunity  
itself became common in the community.

7. No more called injection  
nor it is inoculation  
It has to be vaccination  
or, a jab in India, here  
Or, a shot in US, elsewhere

Somehow standard parlance did not stick  
to the simple physician's needle's prick  
media members copy  
one another shamelessly  
No credit to the first writer  
Some say he is one more blighter.

8. Will the word 'vax' refer only  
to the new vaccine found?  
Or, will it come in handy  
to others already around?

We have to wait and watch  
Until the havoc by SARS stops  
and old or new ailments hatch,  
bringing vaxes to medical shops.

*[Note: Written in mid-year 2020 ACE].*

## **COVID VAX [2]**

[Vax is a new word for Vaccine ]

1. Indian print media in English  
had always been eloquent

Create new words though not frequent  
Sure many terms they Indianize.

2. Their coinage can be commerce  
or in other sections of the paper  
Entry is rare in psychology or science  
except some joke writer's caper.

3. Only some journalist has to find  
the origin of the word 'vax'  
Perhaps the habit of their collective mind  
to shorten words as in mini and max.

4. Vax for vaccine is fine'  
vaxation is not to be used  
'vax' and 'jab' are only for noun  
Seeing this unwritten law, I am amused.

5. Wax with a 'W' is already in use  
as a verb, that too with a negative fame  
Clever media can have this excuse  
Noun is fine. What is there in a name?

## **VAX [3]**

[Isolation- Blessing in disguise?]

1. Vax is a new coinage  
Short form for vaccine;  
Given first to seniors in age'  
To stop covid from win.
2. For one long year, there was no vax.  
Countries, labs suddenly come out  
Claiming that, though not wiped out,  
COVID will be confined nor do any relapse.
3. While the vax labs wonder  
how to meet the huge demand  
the sly virus steals the thunder;  
mutates, and again, go out of hand.
4. It is a continuing contest  
between pathogens and man;  
Leave eventually to destiny or fate  
Only after doing what all one can.

**[**Note: A.C.E. after common era, A.D  
Covid virus first infected Feb, 2020 This piece written in  
April, 2021]

## **CV 13 VACCINE DOUBTS [May 2020]**

[Should Vaccine made mandatory?]

1. Covid is everywhere, threatening everyone  
To pick and choose may not be fair,  
When truly appears, a vaccine.

2. Will a vaccine ever come?  
When it comes, against the virus, will it win?  
Are the authorities, usually dumb,  
this time guard against lobbies which will begin?

3. The whole world knows how India works  
Privileged classes always get  
preferences and perks  
Free supplies meant for the poor  
will they all reach them, are you sure?

4. Will there be a stamp on your forehead?  
Cops everywhere, "vaxed; OK go ahead!"  
Vax, if you don't want, or don't get  
No difference, police rules are set.

5. Mask, vaccine and Covid test  
Lockdown, curfew, there is no end  
No job, no work,, no income; only rest  
Where does one get money to spend?

6. Even before hurt, you begin to wail  
Let not negative pessimism prevail;  
Hey writer, thinking of the devil  
There you are; let us care about the COVID evil.

## CV 14 COVID WARRIORS

[Lab workers(Researchers) join the august group]

Have you seen a doctor who says “I”?  
No. only “we”. One for full fraternity.  
‘We’ stands for every one of them  
Geepees, surgeons and also some  
Affiliated professionals like a dentist  
And psycho , audiology specialist.

[geepee=GP, general practitioner Psycho – short form ]

They stand as a united front  
To save the sick and put him at ease  
Though their joint effort leaves a dent  
In your life’s savings,  
hurting more than the disease.





When a demonic disease disrupts the whole  
world

And all the medicos work round the clock  
A thankful common man searches for a word  
to describe and enclose all of them *en bloc*.

When world-wide virus came and spread  
Lab-based researchers took up the challenge  
Symptoms, diagnosis, testing all efforts led  
to the vaccines developed and still new ones  
being made.



So the 'WE' of the medical front  
Must include the test-tube guys  
Doctors and nurses were always up front  
Now the researchers too should feel nice.

*[written in 2021 C.E]*

## CV 15 PROTEST

[Your freedom to choose may involve 3<sup>rd</sup> party risk]

During the covid scare and chaos  
Along with job and income loss.  
Oh! Activist ! What are you against?  
Don't think you are a seer or saint.

Saints too have to abide  
by rules, for saving all of us  
This is not the time to favor one side  
or one man or group; Instead hate the virus.

Virus, I think, is highly spiritual.  
It taught us that we're all equal.  
It is not enough to follow ritual.  
Behavior change is the sequel.

Sequel to this sad saga  
of this pandemic may even be  
instead of griping or going ga ga  
over any human or groups but learn equanimity.

Amity is what was the goal  
of all spiritualists and thinkers  
while they have failed, the foul  
pathogen has succeeded in stirring our soul.

"Soulless' I would call the wild  
activists at this time of despair  
'aimless' 'shameless are too mild  
to these corrupted minds beyond repair.

Repairing the damage already  
done by the protesters  
may need time even after  
covid scare had settled.  
Protestors at this time are evil  
and tolerance-testers.  
Before these do more harm  
they should be nettled.



## **CV16 TIMEPASS TOOLS**

[Author recollects methods & gadgets man used]

1. An idle mind is the devil's workshop  
so says the proverb.
2. An idle mind takes one to the idiot box  
which, even if useful, must be under locks.
3. Idiot box may keep away the virus devil  
But by itself it can be a bigger evil.
4. The devil needs to have a deadly plan  
I do not think an idler ever can  
perfectly plan  
and efficiently execute  
either think, plan and secretly scheme  
on any ideas or a diabolic theme.
5. The idler has only his time to waste  
Gambling, gossiping or just gawking  
Or, turn into a techie pretending taste  
Texting, twittering or non-stop talking.
6. The idiot-box is for idle introvert  
and hence just passing time.  
Yet there are some others, robust  
viewers, learning, not wasting time.
7. Phone, radio, films and television  
help passing time during lock-down  
But they can also help in knowledge mission  
religious, social, national or one's own.

***[ For passing time:]***

8. Once it was paan or betel leaf, nut and lime which faded away with the passage of time.  
Then it was the powder box and the tobacco stick For those dressed chic and slick.



**Moist snuff**



**Dry snuff**



**Snus**



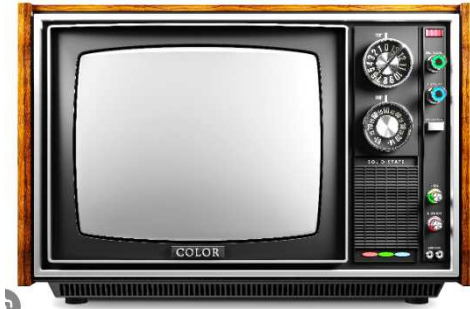
9. Satisfy they did to the sense of smell and taste  
Lots of money and some longevity went to waste  
Optic and aural cognitions were left behind  
For which came gadgets of another kind.

10. Entered, to send messages, a gadget new  
 A dot-dash system with a companion code  
 Then came a device, not phony, true  
 with directly speaking and listening mode.

A ● -	J ● - - -	S ● ● ●
B - ● ● ●	K - ● -	T -
C - ● - ●	L ● - ● ●	U ● ● -
D - ● ●	M - -	V ● ● ● -
E ●	N - ●	W ● - -
F ● ● - ●	O - - -	X - ● ● -
G - - ●	P ● - - ●	Y - ● - -
H ● ● ● ●	Q - - ● -	Z - - ● ●
I ● ●	R ● - ●	



11. When sounds are sent  
will light be far behind?  
Photo and radio combined  
was sent around satisfying  
the seeking of sensuous mankind.



12. Like thunder and lightning came television  
photos, movies and even lunar mission  
All brought into houses for private view  
A whole new passion and profession born anew.

13. Sit and see; eat and enjoy  
Lounge and look  
Do everything in the book  
Flood gates of fun  
flowing into your home  
Making each and everyone  
a moron and massless, like foam.

14. Idlers in front of the idiot box  
which sends out sound-and-light show  
Binge-eating and booze round the clock  
lead to pot belly and fuzzy mind to grow

15. Idiot box had achieved  
what iron hand could not.  
Inept, idler, zombie and the sot  
were kept, confined and contained  
away from harm, a great job attained.

16. It is in fact an idiot's box  
not idiot box by its talent and skills  
Soon they may find one which talks  
to its idiot owner about his habitual ills.

17. The box has become  
smaller and compact  
with phone and TV as some  
combined relative of sort  
inseparable day or night  
Comes along wherever one goes  
if used intelligently and right  
antidote to all lazy fellow's woes.





## CV 17 COVID BONANZA

[COPS ARE GLAD]

Any rule to the traffic cop, is a lathi  
with which he can get his booty;  
It was the helmet, now it is the mask  
When will vax-rule come, the same cops ask.

Medical men see the news;  
Ah, good; here is a useful work.  
Cops and conmen also have their views;  
Here is profit; here is perk.



## CV 18 COVID OR NOT [1] [2]

[Identify life's needs home maker lists some]

I am in my house  
and COVID is not;  
Whether COVID is anywhere or not  
Life is certainly livable

As LONG AS  
Water is in the tap.  
Stove burns in the kitchen  
Electric power comes in  
Frig is well stocked  
phones are working  
milkman had delivered milk  
Servants continue to come

I won't worry;  
COVID or not without or with mask.  
Even when no pandemic  
if any one of the above is missing  
Life would be hell.  
*[Frig- refrigerator]*

Doctors, nurse, scientists too  
Joined by officials and volunteers  
Work to contain covid.; help me and you  
Shall we hail them and say three cheers?

M.D. SWAPNA

## COVID OR NOT, LIFE IS...

[written in 2021 ACE as spoken by a home maker]

1. Life is normal when I know  
I can serve breakfast *idli*  
or *dosa* even without chutney.
2. Life is as usual when I don't know  
who had dialed on the landline  
and did not wait for four rings.
3. Life is calm  
when the cable TV collapses  
on the day of the match  
which the menfolk wanted to watch.
4. Life is Calmer  
when the neighbor's  
lawn mower breaks down.
5. Life is fine  
When the LPG I ordered  
is delivered  
before I go to the neighbor's  
to use their stove.
6. Life is manageable  
if the grocery store  
around the corner  
has stocks and is open.

7. Life is better  
if there is no paper  
with ads in place of news.

8. Life is not impossible  
when the cheque I issued bounced  
not for want of balance  
but for post-dating.

9. Life is liveable  
with or without school  
with or without mask  
Covid or no  
as long as I am in my house.

Life was always fast-paced, we never slowed down,  
Until everything stopped when Corona came to town.

Now all is quiet and there's peace all around,  
We've looked in our hearts and kindness we've found.

We learn now with mum, this is a new feature,  
But we can't wait to get back to our teacher.

I miss Sea Cadets, school, my friends and my dad,  
I miss sharing the fun times and that makes me sad.

We've had social distancing picnics, social distancing walks,  
Social distancing hugs and social distancing talks.

I'm looking forward to getting away,  
The beach, the hotel and a perfect holiday.

When it is? I'll throw my arms open wide,  
And shout to the world, WE CAN ALL GO OUTSIDE!

Don't give up hope, the end is in sight,  
If we all stick together, we'll all win this fight.

Poem from the Web  
Lincoln\*, 11, from the United Kingdom

## CV 19 VIRUS GRANDPA'S ADVICE

[An Imagined advice by a senior virus to youngsters ]

A covid-19 is already two years old  
It is a great grandfather in the viral world.

GG sitting on a dirty ambulance top  
told the young viri "catch me' I will hop"

Then gave a sermon of wisdom.  
If we act, we can rule the kingdom  
of this whole globe; so listen.  
"I am too old, but you who glisten  
with fresh energy; do not emulate  
me; but act on your own and mutate.  
That is the only way against the might  
of vax making, vax taking human elite".

The young pathogens, virile viri, listened.  
Their ugly faces with joy glistened.

*Viri- plural of virus]*

One said: "I may or may not win; my tribe will;  
For mutants are tough to find and kill.

Great Grandfather virus said  
"you upstart! Don't behave  
as if you are the ultimate  
master bug over mankind.  
Man has super methods and mind.

"Human micro, molecular biologists  
have labs, will and logistics  
against us, pathogens, to make a shield,  
a vaccine against us and our creed.

## **CV 20 EXAMINERS' DELIGHT**

[Already boring Micro-Biology will become more  
frightening ]

What is the difference  
between bacteria and virus?  
What is called, can you tell,  
An organism with a single cell?

The vaccine word, I am sure,  
will make you recall  
“Prevention is better than cure”  
How and why, tell us all.

Professors had a field day  
Asking questions to students' dismay  
All the answers not in the book  
In newspaper cuttings search and look

Science communication is the new  
kind of journalism, only a few,  
could handle. But cannot stop the newshound's  
shameless copying. It is the new trend.

Yet, me, the reader does not mind  
The journo's methods and words  
As long as I can go and find  
What to do when and where.

The term 'foreign returned'  
For the first time has turned  
to become a negative epithet  
Needing tests, papers a whole set.

Multiplication tables in maths was  
A scare for the primary kid  
Multiplication itself is a word now  
Scares all of us, didn't you know?  
Examiners ask the reason why.

No embrace, no hand shake  
for greetings or friends to make.  
The old local word epidemic  
gave place to new 'pandemic'

It is a difficult task  
To answer the questions profs ask.  
Our elders tell us  
Ignore them save yourself from the virus .

Bookish knowledge means nothing  
Commonsense and discipline can bring  
Protection and peace from the devil  
Hey! not the prof, but the epidemic evil.

While the common folk together fight  
to save themselves from the virus' designs  
Asking questions is the examiners' delight  
Until they and their ilk are in quarantines.

*[prof- professor  
Journo- journalist ]*

## CV21 ANOTHER COVID WARRIOR

*[DOOR DELIVERY AT COVID TIMES]*

Grocery man, grocery man!  
Welcome to our door  
With fruit basket, oil can  
I'll phone if I need more

To our door you deliver  
In these times of crisis  
I see you as a supplier and giver  
Quite small; my praise is  
Of course, you are paid wages  
Not part of your boss's profit  
So what? Your service assuages  
my needs ;Appreciation! You earned it .





**CV 22 INDOOR- INNOVATION**  
*[INTELLIGENT CHILDREN COPE UP- HOW!]*

During the lock-down thanks to pandemic  
Whether one is sick or not sick  
All children had to stay  
at home ; only inside play.

Sonu and Sawaal found  
That many games can be played  
With or without any sound  
Even sitting on the ground

Handy were writing pads and papers  
Pencils and erasers too  
Tic-tac-toe ,smilies , childish capers  
Kept quite busy, just the two.

Our uncle is no spy,  
But now I don't know why  
He eyed the duo on the sly.

In progress was a game.  
Was 'pulling legs' its name?

You are AB; can you guess?  
Yes. Always Beautiful  
No. Airless Ball

You are BC; can you guess?  
Yes. Best Child  
No Before Christ = old

I am D  
E  
F, can you guess?  
Yes [I] Do Everything Fine.  
No. [I am] FED up [with you]

I am GHI; can you guess?  
Yes. Goose-Head Idiot  
No. Girl Highly Intelligent

For me, lock-down leads to laziness  
For them, it induces innovative busyness.



Or



## CV23 TELL ME WHY

*[KIDS ARE GREAT EVEN ON LOCK DOWN DAYS]*

1. Covid lock-down was harsh  
On everyone; on Sawaal no less  
Nevertheless she learnt to wash  
her own clothes and neatly press.
2. Sonu had no such problem since  
She never used to go to school  
Seeing Sawaal bored and tense  
She said : “ I have an idea it is cool”
3. You make a simple statement  
Then ask me: “Tell me why?”  
The game is only for merriment  
If you don't know no need to cry.
4. Sonu:  
Many trees you have seen  
Why are the leaves green?  
Quick and prompt was Sawaal's reply  
I can't stop myself from being a spy.
5. This tree came from a seed, yes?  
That seed came from a tree, right?  
Go and verify if you can't guess  
The old one has green leaves, left and right.  
Children[\*] always copycat the old  
Small ones are made from a mould.  
*[ \* here, leaves]*

6. Sawaal said it is my turn  
    “ Tell me why milk is white”  
    Sonu said ,” I can’t read and learn  
        I will guess, it may be right
7. Cow gives milk, cow is in shed  
    In there no colour, yellow or red  
    No factory, no dairy, to add flavour  
    Calf likes pure white , no need for colour
8. The game went on, perhaps  
    About air or water on taps  
    Size of nose, colour of hair  
    And all things here and there
9. Children find their own ways  
    Of being busy even in these days  
    of isolation and code of conduct. .  
    From imaginative minds emerges the product
10. As an elderly person, if I just observe  
        And be a referee only in case of need  
        I surely believe I would deserve  
            to be called a child’s friend indeed.

*[ 2020- 2021 everywhere lock-down due to covid pandemic]*

## CV 24 ZOO-TALK

*[ Fear of the virus and precautions became the news world wide – this is an imaginary conversation among the zoo folk i.e animals]*

1. I really fear  
said a female deer.
2. I am full of scare  
said a tiny hare.
3. With that I've no quarrel  
said a tailless squirrel.
4. Yet I have suspicion  
that still facts are not in vision  
said an elephant  
from a lofty position.
5. I want authentic stuff said a giraffe  
from a doc or expert, not from any **riff-raff**.
6. Big figure will not be bad, I suppose  
We hate dieting, declared rhinos and hippos.
7. It has not affected any bovine  
said a bison "don't believe grape wine."
8. "Are you sure"  
asked all in the zoo.
9. Then came the old wise owl  
Listen to me, don't whisper or howl.  
I have a rather long written presentation  
To read in this august congregation  
*[ so saying the big-eyed bird went on:]*

10. We are confined and caged  
But we live, even well aged.
11. We are all together and also alone  
For us, the sense of safe distance is known
12. Virus and bugs have not reached us yet  
Pandemic or not we have our vet.  
*[ vet- veterinarian, animal doctor]*
13. We may worry about our brethren  
domestic or pet. ‘Will they get or when?’  
must be their human owners’ concern  
They will be ready since this is no time to  
learn.
14. In health, we rely  
on our keepers’ care  
In disease, why can’t we,  
Why this suspicion, scare?
15. Man chants God’s name  
so that on Him he could  
rely, lean, pray to or blame  
for anything not good;
16. We, like our wild kith and kin  
Used to rely on mother Nature  
If man against virus, does win  
we’ve our mother and God, miniature.

17. If homo sapiens think they are:  
supreme and gods above all,  
So be it, it is fine as long as they care  
for us and those whom  
they keep at their beck and call.

18. Man knows as well as us  
That He will guide all of us  
Against the man-made virus

For things living or inanimate  
Mother Nature is the ultimate  
caregiver. We are quite late  
even to worry or speculate.

Hence let us not panic  
About this or any epidemic.



## CV 25 AVATAR 2020

[Did God come to teach us a lesson? ]

Is Covid an avatar,  
to teach us our own,  
ancient Sanskar?

Have we not grown  
used to material luxury.

Unmindful of those who cannot  
even survive due to their utter penury?

*[samskar-tradition, culture]*

Are we ever glad for what we got?

In Mahabharat, it was just  
hundred and all their ilk, sought  
greed, power, luxury and lust  
who needed a lesson to be taught.

The same evils today are sought  
by those who laud it as success  
and to our lovely land brought  
Competitive capitalist-commerce nexus.

Now we have lost the knack  
of identifying the genuine and the quack  
We go and seek remedy for our ills  
from the fake who, his own pocket fills.

Covid has taught us to eke out  
Our living within our means  
Grin and bear it, and speak out  
with confidence and conscience clean.



No more the pseudo smile  
aping the elite and the heartless  
Our life is our own, while  
we'll strive for success, no less.

Thrust on us were poverty and penury  
by Fate; yet we choose lust and luxury  
Now we know, a life of dignity, quality  
can be obtained by planning and frugality.

Thank you Covid for  
your coming as Avatar  
To remind us of our own  
Samskar, we dared to disown.  
You have done enough to teach  
You and the mutants! We beseech  
Kindly, Covid! Leave us now; disappear  
Let us live without you or fear.



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## POEMS FROM THE WEB

Life was always fast-paced, we never slowed down,  
Until everything stopped when Corona came to town  
Now all is quiet and there's peace all around,  
We've looked in our hearts and kindness we've found.  
We learn now with mum, this is a new feature,  
But we can't wait to get back to our teacher.  
I miss Sea Cadets, school, my friends and my dad,  
I miss sharing the fun times and that makes me sad.  
We've had social distancing picnics, social distancing walks,  
Social distancing hugs and social distancing talks.  
I'm looking forward to getting away,  
The beach, the hotel and a perfect holiday.  
When it is? I'll throw my arms open wide,  
And shout to the world, WE CAN ALL GO OUTSIDE!  
Don't give up hope, the end is in sight,  
If we all stick together, we'll all win this fight.

Lavannya, 17, United States

-----

Five letters  
Two Numbers  
And one deadly microbe  
Brought the whole world to a standstill  
and locked us in our home.  
I didn't know I'd miss school  
or the endless work  
But this self-isolation  
really is cruel.  
They say history books will record this  
as the time everyone stayed home  
As if we'll need something  
to help us remember this.  
I miss being with my best friend  
and I miss her hugs.  
I hope 'Stay at Home' doesn't extend.  
I dream of a day  
where masks aren't needed.  
A world without fear of infection.  
I wish this virus  
will soon be defeated.

Safiyya, 9, Canada