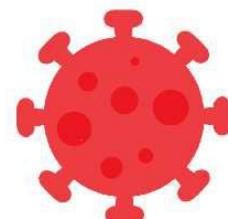
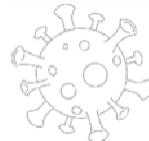


HIBUGS ,

AVATAR

AND OTHER

COVID POEMS



Mysore Diwa Swapna

HIBUGS, AVATAR

AND OTHER COVID POEMS

A collection of poems for 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 .

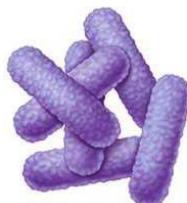
**[hibug- author's word – specially coined for
children -Hiding bugs**

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

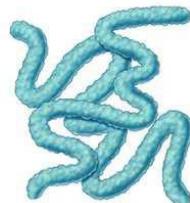
Bacteria



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 nineteen.

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.

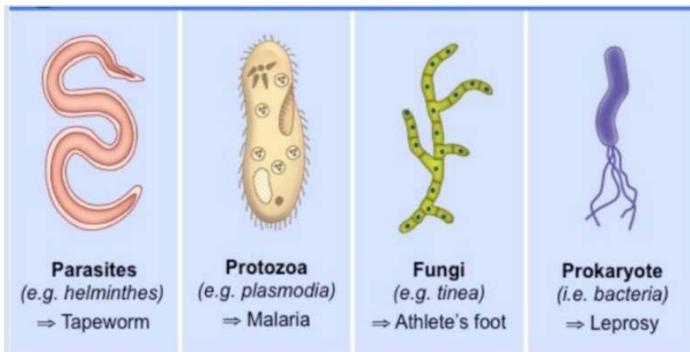
Thank heavens, the seasons are still there.
Sunshine, rain, fragrance in the air.
We hope, the virus is not lurking anywhere.

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.

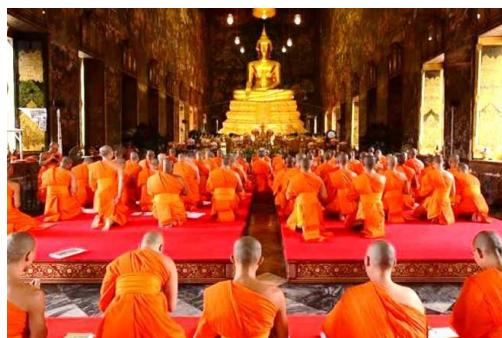
7. Occasions, social or religious
are made, just not for the pious,
The public has to participate
or else, how to celebrate?

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]

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.

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

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.

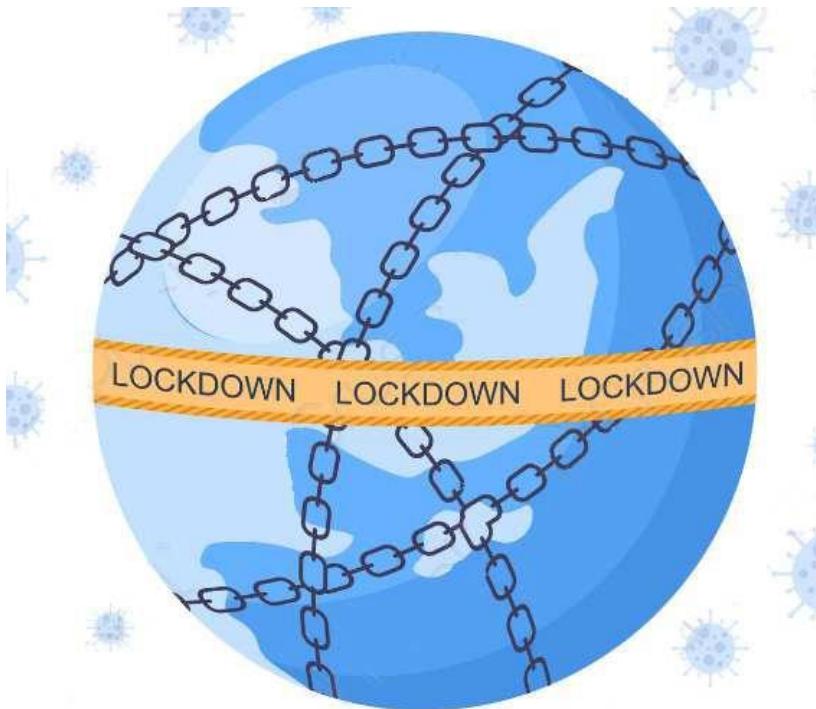
3. Go back to our ancient custom
Read, listen, repeat and chant
verses, shlokas, proverbs, what may come
to your mind, try; children may want
the same or more of our culture.
It is investment for everyone's future.

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.

[geeppee=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 3rd 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 commen 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.
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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