

# BFMC Times

The News Magazine of Benjamin Franklin Memorial Club



## LOCKDOWN EDITION



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7 pages

## Déjà vu!

The roads are empty, police are marching the streets with Lathi in their hand, rumours that something happened in a colony near us, establishments shut down indefinitely and more importantly flogging the markets to hoard food stocks for as long as possible. Students have not been able to go to colleges for more than a month, their academic years in a certain confusion. Is this like a Déjà vu? Is this not the backdrop to the genesis of the idea – Benjamin Franklin Memorial Club.

Incidentally, the name of the troublemakers both times start with a C – it was Channa Reddy then and now it is Corona aka COVID – 19. The lockdown has not only affected the meetings but also some of the key events on the timeline of BFMC. An Installation Nite cum Charter Nite that was supposed to happen was

called off and substituted with a low key affair which also did not take place courtesy the “Mitron” address by the Prime Minister. While some Bens are working from home, some bens catching up with some home work. The Whatsapp Group of BFMC has been active though with the occasional updates on virology and personal protection from Dr. Geetha Sharma.

Will we find a PS Mohan and Sethuraman among this lot that can take BFMC to glory? Will we find the 11 like-minded individuals who can ensure that BFMC stands the test of time? During this testing times where social distancing is becoming social ostracizing without our knowledge, we believe that the communication tools available

at disposal should be used to spread the joy of emotional togetherness rather than repeated bombarding of news and updates. Keeping this in mind on the Chaitra Sudha Padyami of Sarvari Nama Ugadi, this idea of LOCKDOWN EDITION took shape. We hope that you will enjoy reading it.



## Governing Board - 2020

- BNS (Mar 31)

Elections to office bearers of the Governing Board for 2020 were held on Sunday, February 9th, 2020. There was a keen contest for the posts of AVP, EVP and GS, while the President and Treasurer were elected unopposed. BFMC Times wishes the new Governing Board all the best in the year to come.



Ben Ravi Teja  
President



Ben Adithi  
AVP



Ben Sudha  
EVP



Ben Praneeth MV  
G. Secretary



Ben Praneeth P  
Treasurer

## BENTOON

YAAAY !!!



We don't need a new excuse every week now for not having a meeting!

## An opportunity to connect!

From the time the Janata Curfew on Sunday, March 22nd got extended further to a total lockdown, there has been a barrage of activity on the Bens Club WhatsApp group. Ranging from the usual forwards on the Covid-19 worldwide to the various funny posts and the Bens recommended some excellent reading and listening stuff. Then there was a long list of movies to watch from the confines of home.

Three days after being locked down at home, came Ugadi – the Telugu New Year's Day. There was some activity happening around the streets. I went out too. Soon we decided that why not

### Editorial - Ben Venkat

provide some good reading material for the Bens. Lo, behold! BFMC Times came back into thought and later that festival day afternoon along with the Associate Editor Ben Sairam I met Ben Sunil, our publisher, at his house and over a few cups of Tea we decided on bringing out this particular issue.

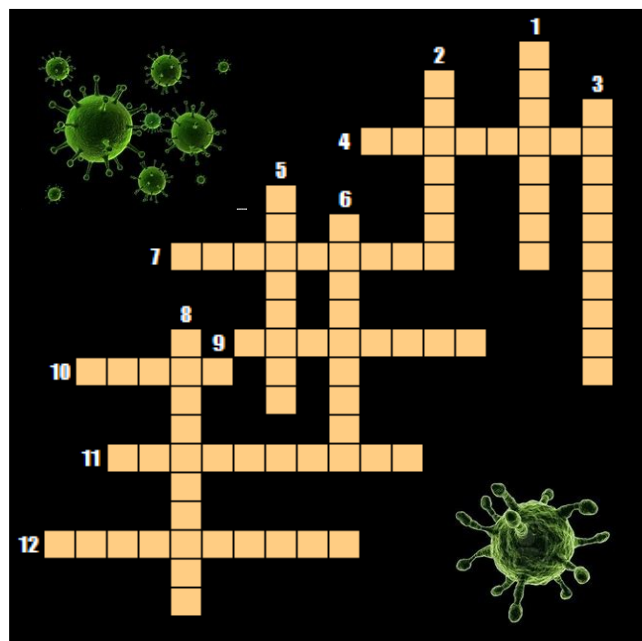
Initially, we thought of taking this up in the group and informing all members to contribute, and then we realized there has to be a surprise element. Then we messaged a few of our all-time regular contributors and some new Bens. Thus came to life this special issue with some exciting fare. Hope you all like this issue and will read them end-to-end and provide us with useful feedback and more contributions to bring out yet another issue soon.

Also, wishing all stay safe and at home observing social distancing. In these times of worldwide pandemic, let us resolve to stay away from the spread of the virus!

## Lockdowns around the World

Country	Lock down Level	Start date	End date
Australia	National	23-Mar	Indefinite
France	National	17-Mar	15-Apr
Germany	State (Bavaria)	20-Mar	3-Apr
	City (Freiburg, BW)	21-Mar	3-Apr
India	National	25-Mar	15-Apr
Italy	National	9-Mar	12-Apr
New Zealand	National	26-Mar	Indefinite
Pakistan	Province (Punjab)	24-Mar	6-Apr
	Province (Sindh)	24-Mar	7-Apr
	Province (Balochistan)	24-Mar	7-Apr
	AdmN (Gilgit-Baltistan)	22-Mar	Indefinite
	Admn (Azad Kashmir)	24-Mar	7-Apr
Russia	City (Moscow)	30-Mar	Indefinite
Saudi Arabia	City (Jeddah)	29-Mar	Indefinite
	City (Mecca)	26-Mar	Indefinite
	City (Medina)	26-Mar	Indefinite
	Area (Qatif)	9-Mar	Indefinite
	City (Riyadh)	26-Mar	Indefinite
South Africa	National	26-Mar	16-Apr
Spain	National	14-Mar	14-Apr
U.A.E	National	26-Mar	30-Mar
United Kingdom	National	23-Mar	13-Apr
United States	State (California)	19-Mar	29-Mar
	County (Clark County, NV)	20-Mar	20-Apr
	State (Connecticut)	23-Mar	29-Mar
	State (Illinois)	21-Mar	7-Apr
	City (Kansas City, KS)	24-Mar	23-Apr
	State (Massachusetts)	24-Mar	7-Apr
	State (Michigan)	24-Mar	14-Apr
	State (New York)	20-Mar	29-Mar
	State (Oregon)	24-Mar	Indefinite
	State (Wisconsin)	24-Mar	24-Apr
Zimbabwe	National	30-Mar	Indefinite

## Crossword



### CLUES

#### ACROSS

- Confine a fastening contrivance moving from higher to lower. (8)
- Unwell sniffer in haste. (5,4)
- One's defense exemption from legal liability. (8)
- A corrupting influence on systems and bodies. (5)
- Somehow held back at the break out of a great pandemic. (5,5)
- I flush pans carelessly, affecting and killing millions. (7,3)

#### DOWN

- Different ivy log or a science. (8)
- Can vice change by virtue of inoculation? (7)
- Converted to a bit coin it inhibits growth of micro entities. (10)
- Expand emi calculation to find it affecting a large no. of people. (8)
- The condition is a compelling force-a, to sound like Ben D Appa Rao. (9)
- The process of isolation ran quite an anarchy. (10)



## LOCKDOWN MUSINGS

# Quarantine and Chores



It was a March morning. I had my boards going on, two more and then am done with my intermediate. I had already started to build castles in the air for my summer vacation. I not being the studious types was planning to spend all day out playing cricket. I was eagerly waiting for the exams to get over since I was locked in home prior to exams. I decided that this time I will listen to no body and keep playing all day long. That was exactly when our honourable CM Mr K Chandrashekar Rao played the spoil sport. He in a recent press meet announced for a shutdown till March 31st due to a new pandemic covid-19. This came like a slap on my wrist. All my plans crashed like a house of cards.

I tried to remain focussed on the remaining exams and complete it first. Then finally I completed my exams on 20th. I cleaned my cricket gear and was waiting for 31st of March now. The worst part is that I had given my phone for repair and it would be back only on 26th. I spent the whole day lazing around watching movies and web series which I always wanted to watch but could not due to exams. And that was when PM Mr Narendra Modi addressed the nation stating that the outbreak of corona has to be taken seriously because it has been spreading like wild fire and killing thousands of people around the world. India had to be under complete lock-

down for the next 21 days.

All dressed up but nowhere to go, this was my situation at that time. This completely shattered my hopes for the vacation. I had no clue on what I was going to do for the next 21 days staying home. Now that I do not have my phone, only thing that I knew that would happen if I stayed home for the next 21 days was



that my mom would make me do all the chores at home. That was something which I didn't like to and didn't want to do. There was no getting away with it. First day I did nothing but slept the day out. On the second day, it was around 11 in the morning, I was dead to the world and woke up to my mother's screams. Then I woke up brushed and sat in front of the computer when she started shouting at me that I don't help her with anything though I am at home. She asked me to mop the floor for her. I started mopping the floor lethargically. I hoped to hold my bat in the vacation but destiny had different plans,

and here I am holding a bucket and mop. After I was finally done with it I sat down to have my brunch. Eat, sleep and repeat was going to be my mantra for the next few days. But my mom had different plans.

The next day my mom woke me up early so that I could clean up my room. This was when I started to really get mad at this corona and quarantine. This has now become a daily ritual, my mom wakes me up early and makes me do something or the other.

Now I am fed up of sleeping and even using my phone. So I started doing some workouts at home. The first day I did 30 push ups without any warm up and my shoulders are still paining, that was the end of it. I was absolutely clueless on what was I going to do for the remaining quarantine days.

Its day 6 now and I have realised that life is not always the way we plan it, it is all about adapting oneself to situations that comes out of the blue. It is all about co existing with nature, spending time with family, trying and learning new skills. Let us keep our fingers crossed and hope for a better and healthier world post Covid-19 era. Covid-19 has taught us a beautiful lesson – something that I can pass on to our future generations.....

- Ben Praneeth

## LOCKDOWN MUSINGS

# Bored, but Privileged



My first thoughts on what I should write in this article were to fill it up with the word "bored" with a little bit of "scared" sprinkled in, and let it be. There would have been nothing better that could express what I am feeling right now.

The worst thing to have happened last year around this time was the Game of Thrones finale. Honestly, I would take that all over again because if this is the series finale, it is so bad. With the number of apocalyptic movies and series around, you'd think they would think of better plot points. Locking everyone up in their houses offers zero drama and viewership value!

Remember when we were studying history and wondered what it would be like to be part of a major historical event? Well, I did. I am now and I don't like it. It was supposed to be space travel. Now, I am retired to laughing

on memes of how 20 years later the MDH uncle and Queen Elizabeth will be the only ones alive.

At Least we will not complain that we need a break from our schedules for a few months after we get out of this. It is not like there is nothing to do. There is this exhaustive list of things I have always wanted to do which I couldn't do because of lack of time. Cleaning the house, reading books, watching movies, cooking, cleaning and these are just off the top of my head. Now I have got time to do all that and more. While cleaning your cupboard, you know how you find these random things and get distracted when you are going down memory lane but you can't waste time so you get back to cleaning? Well, guess what, forget the memory lane you can take the highway now and drive around there for hours.

The number of ludo games I have played over

the past week is ridiculous. The number of video calls made in the last few days is more than the total I have made previously. I am tremendously enjoying catching up on all the home food I have missed. What I am trying to say is, most of us are privileged enough to have shelter, food and most importantly internet to get us through this. It is just I miss the sun and the wind in my hair and the freedom to go out. Also, I am so so bored.

- Ben Praharsa



**LOCKDOWN  
MUSINGS**

## COVID19 Lockdown and an Army Man



**LOCKDOWN!!** What is this? Never heard before. Curfew yes, strike yes, factory lock-outs yes, boycott yes but **lockdown**? Thanks to the pandemic prevalent, lockdown is imposed in India and many countries of the world. "Never seen or heard this in our lives" is the common remark among the old.

As news started spreading that colleges are being closed and most companies have permitted work from home, my first reaction was to recall my sons, Abhinav working privately in Chennai and Aditya studying Engineering in Bengaluru to Ahmedabad. The younger one came immediately. Unfortunately, at this time I developed fever. Our Station Medicare centre (SMC), being a Saturday and Sunday advised me to take PCM to control the fever. When it did not subside on Monday, the doctor prescribed blood and urine tests. At SMC, the Medical Assistant first checks one's BP, pulse and temperature, writes it down and we show it to the Doctor. The first question the Doctor asks has changed from "What are your symptoms?" to "**What is your travel History?**" This is the first change because of scare of coronavirus. The Doctor put me on antibiotics suspecting viral fever. It did not subside for another 3 days. I kept the doctor informed of my temperature every 6 hours. Even at night. The young doctor, respecting my seniority, couldn't say anything. After 3 days, not wanting to take chance, he referred

me to a Medical specialist in Military Hospital. No chances taken there too. I was admitted, further tests done and dosage of medicines increased. Slowly, fever subsided by one week (normal time for viral fever) and I was discharged with the final assessment as routine 'viral fever'. I write this because, normally, I wouldn't have troubled the doctor, neither would he have referred me to MH, nor MH would have admitted me into the ward. All due to the scare of coronavirus.

Then comes my elder son from Chennai to Ahmedabad via Delhi. Uses the airport lounge and sees a few foreigners who may be coughing. On his arrival, he wants to get himself checked since he transited through an International Airport. This is how people are worried about the coronavirus. I had to remind him that we are in India and testing will not be done without symptoms, as testing kits are limited. It took Doctor's convincing that there is nothing wrong with him, and he was home quarantined for 15 days.

There is no lockdown for Defence. So going to office as usual. However, Air warriors staying outside the camp have been told to "work from home" on secure IAF mobiles. No internet. Withith precautions like washing hands, using sanitizers, wearing masks, social distancing, no shake hands etc. You may wonder why, when the whole world is in lockdown.

With the ever present threat from our neighbours, we are defending against external aggression so that the nation can continue with its **WAR** against **CORONAVIRUS**. Secondly, and more importantly, quarantine facilities have been created in Armed Forces Hospitals at various locations. All those returning from Wuhan, Iran etc were quarantined there. And, we are on stand by for any contingency in air lifting viz medicals, rations, vegetables, patients etc. Our 'Rapid Action Medical Team' is ready to be deployed at any location within the country or abroad. The medical professionals also need administrative and medical support in performing their duties.

Being from Armed Forces, I could only teach my children to speak their mother tongue Telugu. Not reading and writing. Making an attempt now. Though as a family we are all together, the atmosphere is that of uncertainty, scare of the pandemic more so by social media. Not the sort of holiday one would like to have. Nowhere to go, eat out, visit places of interest etc.



We pray to the Almighty that we tide over this crisis as early as possible and lead our normal lives. Jai Hind! Jai Bharat!

Ben Gp Capt V Krishna Mohan

**LOCKDOWN  
MUSINGS**

## Quarantine and no chill



It all started with waking up late in the morning and felt like it's a vacation! But KCR mama had other plans ready in hand for me. He didn't want me to roam outside stating social distancing. Who knew that someday by staying at home I'll be saving thousands of people.

That day I took up cooking, not knowing that making palli chutney would be as tedious a task as it was. Of course, I had to rub my eyes after slicing chillies which made me cry. And of course, for a family of three, that chutney lasted far too long because yours truly didn't know that he had to make it for 3 and not 10.

Just when I thought that this period will end without me doing anything, I got myself a Netflix subscription and I have a big list of shows/movies to watch- Malleham, Ala vaikuntapuram lo, One-punch man, Andhadun, Sherlock, Breaking bad, Money heist,

Boss baby, Arrow, Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara and the list goes on and on. But to what extent can I binge watch a show or a movie? I asked myself this, as I was watching the 5th season of Big Bang theory on day 5 of the quarantine period.

Then I started getting inspired by people all around. The biggest, was this:

"Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you



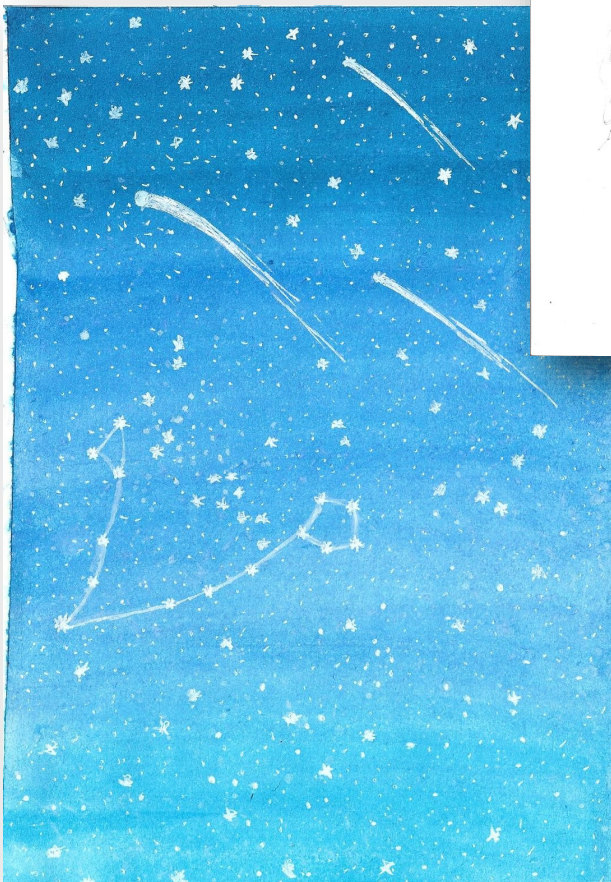
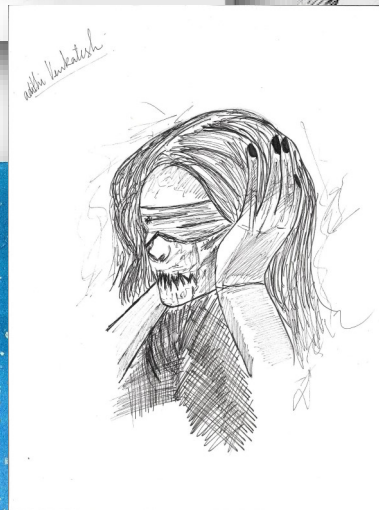
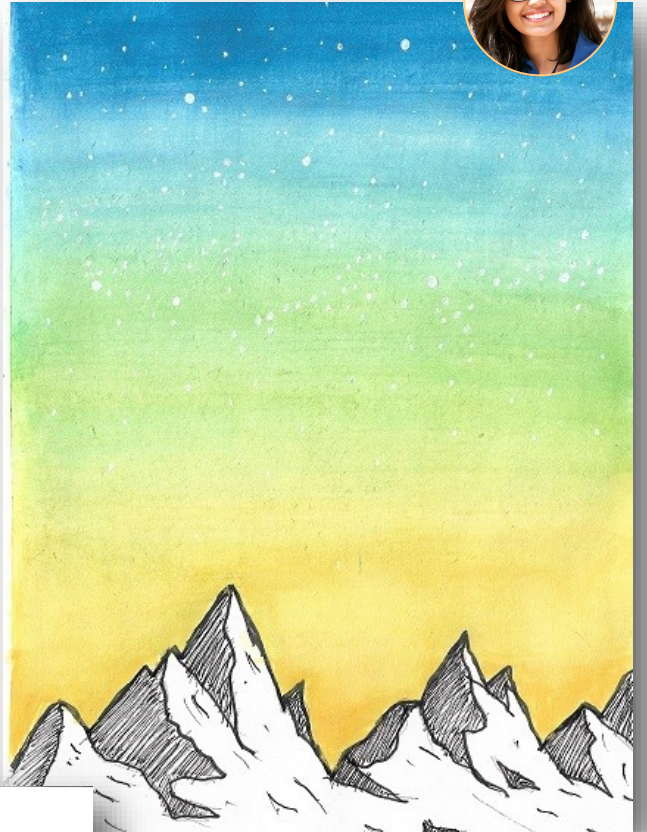
go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength. Failure is not an option."- A famous quote by Arnold Schwarzenegger.

A good look at the above quote made me think this is what I have to do for the whole span of lockdown, stay fit for what's to come after lockdown! But after a few pushups, few being two, I felt.. a little fat is of no harm, right? I am not going to go to any beach and get a tan anyways. All I'm going to do is star gaze at a clear sky due to lesser pollution. But what I'm actually doing, is squinting at the night sky while donating blood to mosquitoes. So here I am, back at square one, with no idea what to do. That has been my lockdown so far - I have come a full circle. What about you?

- Ben RaviTeja

LOCKDOWN  
MUSINGS

# Dabbling on the Canvas



- Ben Adithi



## Need for PPE

PPE stands for Personal Protection Equipment, which are:

- Eye protection glasses (as eyes are very delicate and have mucous tissue that can enable virus growth. Just like nose, mouth etc)
- Mask (to avoid cough sneeze, sputum transfers)
- Apron (an overall to protect your own regular clothing)
- Gloves (to protect your hands from contacting infected patients while examining)
- Shoes covered again to protect your feet while walking in affected areas)

These are essential for health care workers coming in direct contact with patients. Also need to be changed after every patient specially gloves and apron if soiled.

And, to be used by persons tested positive for Covid

This need not be used by everyone - Creating a scarcity for the ones who need it. At best you may cover your mouth, nose with a hand kerchief. And wash it regularly.



## Need for getting tested

Evaluate your need for testing.

- Do not overcrowd diagnostic labs & hospitals. It is a place to catch unwanted infections from others coming there with pre existing conditions
- It is Required for 3 categories of people:
  - A. Persons returning from International travel
  - B. Healthcare personnel
  - C. People demonstrating clinical symptoms. But, first call clinician on helpline and follow advice.



## The R&D scenario

- THERE IS NO VACCINE AS OF DATE.
- For any vaccine to be launched in the market idea to bedside as we call it, takes a minimum of 2 years, often times even more. So lets be realistic and not believe over enthusiastic promises.
- No known medication as on date.
- Many pharma scientists, molecular virologists are engaged and R&D is in progress.
- So to illustrate briefly about COVID -19 and the R&D process:
  - ◇ This is a positive stranded RNA virus. RNA is its genetic material
  - ◇ The RNA is within an envelope made of lipid and a few antigenic proteins.
  - ◇ On entry into a live cell the RNA is introduced into the cell leaving the envelope out.
  - ◇ The viral RNA sabotages the cellular machinery and dictates the RNA POLYMERASE enzyme of the cell, to the

synthesis (or reproduction) of new viral (daughter) RNA and envelope protein. This is now packaged and new viral particles are released. This cycle goes on till the host cell dies off.

- ◇ Having very briefly said this, viruses such as SARS, MERS etc also are dependent on this kind of RNA polymerase. So this is being targeted for a novel drug.



- ◇ RNA Polymerase inhibitors are one of things on the search engine, apart from other unique viral proteins (the "shields" that protect viral nucleus itself).
- ◇ The viral proteins and receptors are translated from the viral sequence.
- ◇ These structures are predicted using

computer aided drug design. A best fit or hand shake between the viral protein and drug molecule is queried.

- ◇ A few such molecules go through rigorous tests before a drug becomes available.
- ◇ All this takes a minimum of 5-10 years, and enormous money according to TUFT reports a billion dollars. So please hold your horses and be patient.

- Now there are rumours as regards use of chloroquine. As far as I know, it is not approved by FDA. Also it is known to have side effects specially persons having a cardiac history. Do not take unless your physician prescribes it.
- My personal suggestion would be to build a strong immune health for this or any other infectious condition and good immunity is not an overnight miracle
- Yes slow And steady wins the race!

- Ben Dr. Gita Sharma

LOCKDOWN  
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## Whatever It Takes



*Snacks and ideas ran out four days ago. Patience will run out tomorrow morning. When I drift off [sleep], I will dream about you.[My dearest mac and cheese at Coffee Cup] It's always you.*

For those who don't recognize the reference for above lines, it's an edited version of Tony Stark's dialogue from the Avengers Endgame Trailers that were released a year ago.

Our situation right now, is not very different from theirs. They were trying to eradicate someone who destroyed half the world, and we are trying to eradicate someone who will destroy half the world, if not brought under control. They had the Avengers and their armies. We have Doctors, Scientists, policeman and their armies. They had stupid people who stand in harm's way, and we have stupid people venturing out unnecessarily. Of course, we don't have the super human sized monsters and the likes, but really- what's the USP if everything is the same?

The day before the talks of staying at home began, it was a weekday, and I was working on the desktop I had to carry home, packed in bubble wrap and put in a box so big, I could either carry the box or see where I was walking. I thought, "Finally, I don't need to go anywhere. I can stay home and 'chill' like I always want to." And with renewed energy, I began



going through my emails and getting on with my work for the day. I didn't stop, until I was hungry and thirsty. I had finished most of my work until then, and I was happy I was having a productive day. I get up and look at the clock, only to see that I was on the system for

less than 3 hours.

That is when it began. At first, I was just bored. As for how it has changed over the last few days.....

Bored → thinking about being bored → bored about being bored → thinking about bored about being bored → bored about thinking about being bored.

I began looking for things to do. I have never deep cleaned my house and room as many times in the last year, as I have in the last few days. I have never painted, read or written as much as I have in the last few days. I have never binge watched shows or movies as I have these last few days. But what can we do? As the Avengers say, slightly edited.....

*The world has changed. None of us can go out. All we can do is our best. And the best we can do, is to stay home. Whatever it takes? Whatever it takes.*

- Ben Krishnaveni

LOCKDOWN  
MUSINGS

## Falling in Love, Figuratively Speaking



To beat the doom and gloom, it is time someone took the mantle of spreading some love, figuratively speaking. Luckily, Bollywood has been spreading this love message with a missionary zeal ever since the advent of the cinema. I took the opportunity of the lockdown to listen to the love songs from yesteryears (to now), in search of the metaphors the poets and lyricists used to sell their dreams. Here is a sample of what I found on this journey.

The 50s started with the sacred and the eternal angle to love. Lovers compared themselves to what Indians consider the most revered and perennial of their rivers, Ganga and Yamuna. So we have [tu ganga ki mauz mein jamuna ka dhara](#), which Raj Kapoor also immortalised in the 60s in [mere mann ki ganga](#).

While we are with the metaphor of water, the other elements, wind and fire especially, appear frequently. The winds of love blow with [tu nahi to ye bahaar kya bahaar hi, yeh bahaar bhi tu hai](#), and [jab chali tandhi hava](#). [Mat khel jal javegi](#) and [aaq se naata](#) warns the fiery side of love, if only the [parwana](#) heeded the [mein shama hun](#) advice! So does earth and sky in [yeh zamin ga rahi hai](#) and love becomes the life force itself in [meri jaan ja rahi hai](#).

Moon, whose magical powers were acknowledged in [chaand hai ya koi jaaduigar hai](#), was the poet's best friend. From the ultimate comparison with the Moon itself in the 60s classic [chaudvi ka chand ho](#), the trend continues well into the 70s with [ye chand sa roushan chehra](#). We celebrate the giant leap



for mankind by confirming [haan tum bilkul waisi ho](#) and march on to the 80s with the fast-paced [nile nile ambar pe](#).

Over the years, lovers have also been compared to thieves, [mein chor hun kaam hai chori](#) and [churaliya](#), and were advised to guard against strangers with [pardesiyon se na akhiyan milana](#). Thankfully, [Pyar kiya koi chori nahin](#) declared that love was not a crime! Lovers have also been accused of being stone-hearted [patthar ke sanam](#) and numb [bedardi](#)

[baalma](#). But they have also been compared to [phoolon ki raani](#), [khilta gulab](#), a [khwab](#), and possessing [chandana sa badan](#) and with [teer-e-nazar](#) and the modern and deadlier version, [akhiyon se qoli maare!](#)

The theme of love being an intoxication pops quite often as in [hoga yun nasha jo taiyyar](#) and [pehla nasha](#). I was getting worried there may be more reasons than COVID-19 to queue up at the grocery store with [gudh se meetha, imli se khatta](#). The song recovers with [yeh dard hi ya dardon ki dawa](#) (atleast the pharmacy queue is spared), and fully redeems itself with [rab hai sona, rab se bhi sona!](#) Because [pyar ka pehla khat](#) can take time to write, you could just state it as a [do lafzon ki](#) story that can be written in [do lafzon mein](#).

All lovers want to immortalise their love but the metaphors they choose to make their vows have changed over time. From [chamakte hai jab tak yeh chand aur taare](#) to [jab tak rahega samose mein alu](#), we can see the standards fall, literally, as in [sadi ke fall](#). Here's hoping we will keep making samosas with aloo filling until moon and stars keep shining!

- Ben Durga Prasad

## Lockdown or Brain Fade



*Ishq ka dayara kuch itni simatt si gayi hai,*

*iss kamre se uss kamre mein, poori kainath khatm ho gayi hai.*

Lockdown has created unique opportunities to experiment with your creativity. You can be meditative and experience the peace in one corner of your room, or you could be experimenting in creating vision of your balcony to be the balcony of Lord's.

But there could be fun in all this.

- What if you wear a helmet on the top of your mask. which one will save you the most, Helmet or Mask?.
- Which hand cleans the other hand better when you use soap, the right on the left or left on the right?.
- Can my fate line disappear because I cleaned my hand more or it disappeared because I cleaned less.
- You could be the next Mohd Rafi, if only you could sing-along. and if you cannot sing-along, you will still be better than Himesh Reshammiya.
- But I am grappling with more fundamental problems/principles.
- Will 21 days become 42 or 56?.



- Will I retain my normal sanity and retain my occasional insanity?. or would it become normal insanity and occasional sanity?.
- Will I be enjoying lousy movies also, towards my 21st day?. and if it extends, when this lockdown end, I will see bahu bhi kabhi minister thi and enjoy.
- Will I endure this Pati-Patni jokes all my life or there is a salvation.
- Will Trump be Quarantined because of virus or Trump will trump the virus. Which mask will Trump wear?.
- If Trump is Quarantined will twitter be celebrating or not?
- If Virus is controlled, will it count for Achche Din?.
- These Q&A are boring. Let me see whether I have spent one more day.

- Ben Guru Moorthy

## Curfew... Can't cure a few!



Sunday, March 29, a week after the Country had been in lockdown, I had to go to Alwal from Safilguda to get medicines for my Father-in-law. The 7.6 km was double the stipulated distance (3 km) that the Government allowed one to travel outside their home for 'essential commodities'.

With the kind of videos spreading across social media about the police atrocities on people venturing out, the brutal caning gave me jitters, and I was quite wary of making the trip. But then this was an emergency, I had to get the medicines for the next two months (no, I didn't have any prescriptions to carry) and couldn't postpone it to another day. From late Saturday evening, I planned my travel. First up I spoke to a Ben who had recently ventured out on a long-distance across the city from AS Rao Nagar to Miyapur. He suggested the safest way to travel is by car, "the cops can't cane someone sitting inside a car" he said, some gyan that! Next, I called my friend a journalist who lives in Alwal, for the directions sans police checking. He suggested avoiding the Trimulgherry X roads, and he too

advised I travel by car via Sainikpuri, Rashtrapati Nilayam and Lothkunta. He assured me of picking me up if I am stuck somewhere.

Sunday morning, I watched more WhatsApp videos of police beating up people on the roads across the Country. I got worried, no way I would let a policeman touch me, leave alone hit me. I wanted to know what the law said about corporal punishment for the common man in India. I called our most learned Ben LRC to know about civil rights and what to do if I were to be stopped by a cop or even lathi-charged. The senior counsel gave me

enough self-assurance to embark upon the 'journey'.

At 9.00 am I took my car out, with a few hospital reports of my father-in-law scattered above the dashboard and on the passenger seat of my car, they were my ID card to venture out in the curfew. It took me just 15 minutes to cover the distance that usually would take about 40 minutes on a regular day a month ago. I met the doctor, got the medicines, delivered them at my in-laws' place in old Safilguda and was back home by 11.00 am.



What was supposed to be an ordeal turned out to be an eye-opener. Firstly, no barricades were visible throughout my route, nor did I get stopped by any policemen. The most baffling thing I saw was hundreds of men and women were out in every locality shopping for daily/weekly essentials, mostly without masks or any proper protective gear. Wither Social distancing - wither curfew - It just can't cure quite a few!

- Ben Venkat

# Dabbling on the Canvas



- Ben Krishnaveni

## Worst Pandemics in History

The COVID-19 pandemic, at least as of now, isn't as deadly as some of the worst in human history. Let's look at the top five.



**5. Antonine Plague (165-180 AD, 5 million deaths)**, was brought to the Roman Empire by troops returning from campaigns (afflicted possibly with smallpox or measles), killing 25% of those affected.

**4. Plague of Justinian (541-542 AD, 25 million deaths)**, afflicted the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire as merchant ships harbored rats that carried fleas infected with plague, eventually killing nearly half of Europe's population..

**3. HIV/AIDS (ongoing, peak early 2000s, 36 million deaths)**, first recognized in the early 1980s, infections peaked in 1997 at 3.3 million per year currently stabilising below 2 million per year.

**2. Spanish Flu (1918-1920, 20-50 million deaths)**, infected 500 million people - about a quarter of the world's population. India was the worst affected with 5% of its population killed.

**1. The Black Death (1346-1353 AD, 75-200 million deaths)**, was the most devastating of pandemics, estimated to have killed 30% to 60% of Europe's population, having several introductions to the region including via the "Silk route" and via ships.

In comparison, COVID-19 has resulted in only 1/300th of a million deaths (as of writing this piece). But, barely 3 months running now, an exponential growth in infections in the coming months can still make it a significant event in history.

## Benignly Yours



Dear Editor,

Empty Mind is devil's workshop. Nothing to read when lock down happened, I made attempt of creative communication. I will confess, it landed me into lot of trouble and my kith and kin are very disappointed with me.

So, I am reading a lot about this deadly *small circle of light seen around the sun or moon caused due to the diffraction of water droplets*. Being self-appointed authority on anything and everything, started giving lectures to all my friends and spreading awareness about the *circular chandelier in the church*. People keep asking me is it really necessary to use a N95 mask to stay away from the *cup-shaped or trumpet-shaped outgrowth at the centre of a daffodil or narcissus flower*. Appamma is glued to the TV to see the part of a *cornice having a broad vertical face* spread its deadly affects across multiple mainlands contrasted with islands. No...No...Nooooo...I am not hallucinated and also not I am having weed, I am as clean as anyone of you would have assumed me to be and I have never had the long straight sided cigar also.

Now you maybe asking what happened I am talking about diffraction, chandelier, daffodil and other nonsense. I have one confession to tell. I went to a very big liquor store 2 weeks ago and picked some stuff. On last Sunday, my neighbour knocked my door and asked "Appa...Beer Unda?" I don't know what I said. In 3 minutes there was one ambulance straight at my home with doctors, nurses, helpers taking me to Gandhi Hospital for tests. "Ada Paavi what did I say that hurt him..." I was thinking thinking thinking and suddenly realised, I should not have said "Corona Undi"

- Ben D Appa Rao

## Club News

- Mar 31 (BNS)

Annual awards were discussed, schedule was decided, mementos were almost ordered, menu was decided.

A week before the Charter Nite and Installation Nite was to happen, the outgoing and incoming governing boards were all set for a mega evening. With so much enthusiasm around, the news of a country wide lockdown did not help.

While their spirits were dampened initially, it picked up a little a few days later. There is a lot that members have to look forward to once the lockdown is called off.

We have a new librarian, Ben Dillesh who has already proposed a simple yet effective method to maintain records. The dusty library has been cleaned, and some of the

books have also been sorted. We hear that a few books have already been borrowed by members too!

Apart from this, the new team laid out a preliminary plan for a Mock Parliament. The idea is to approach select schools in the Secunderabad-Sainikpuri-Tarnaka areas, and have the event with limited participants. The plan was to have the event mid



April, when most students would be free. However, the plan has now been pushed and is likely to be conducted early in the new academic year.

After the tremendous success of the competitions conducted in PB DAV School, the team is likely to approach other schools as well. St Martin's and DAV Safilguda are the ones likely to be targeted first.

Right from election day, the incoming board has begun planning for the year. We are likely to have a new Public Relations Officer as well. News of the other plans haven't come out yet, but we believe an intraclub competition is likely to happen when feasible. All in all, we expect the team to be all systems go as soon as possible, and we might be in for an interesting term.