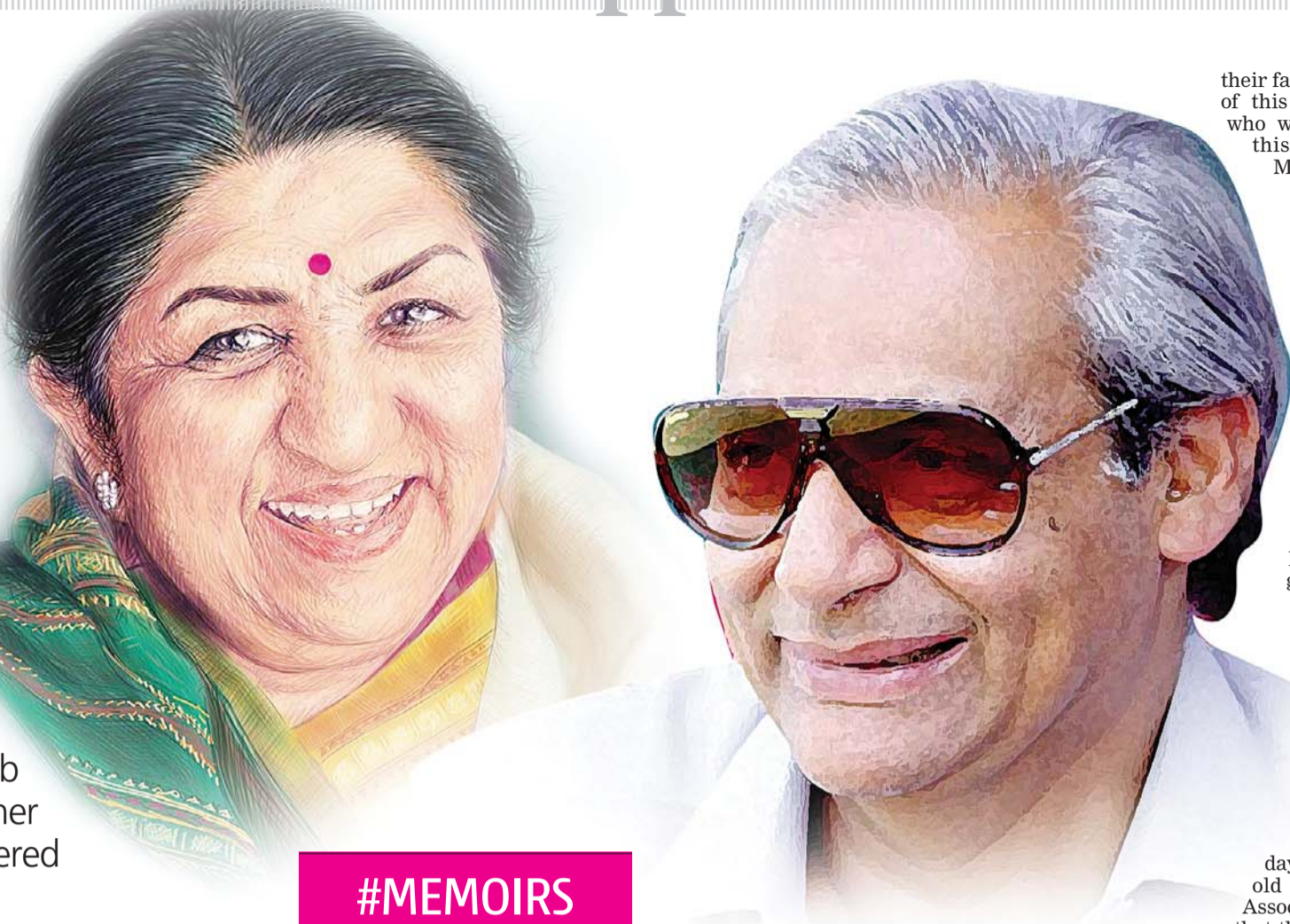


"Just after the final at Lord's Salve Saheb and IS Bindra, who was also in Lord's visited the players enclosure to congratulate the Indian team. Salve Saheb made an announcement that a public reception would be held to honour the World Cup-winning team and each member of the team would get Rs. 1 lakh." But raising Rs. 15 lakh was not an easy task. So Bindra suggested to Salve sahib to speak to Lata Mangeshkar and persuade her to appear for a Lata Mangeshkar Nite in Delhi and this way funds could be raised by advertisements and ticket sales to pay the cricketers. Thus the ball was now in Salve Saheb court. Salve Saheb had known Lataji for 30 years and knew her love for cricket. He was also Lataji's Chartered Accountant" remembers Kishor Rungta.



#MEMOIRS

Prakash Bhandari
The writer is a senior journalist

The Vaibhav Gehlot-led Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) is building a mega stadium at Chopn on an area of 100 acres at a mammoth cost of over Rs. 300 crores. This stadium is said to be going to be the world's third-largest stadium with a capacity of 75,000. But, not many people know that the RCA when it was ruled by the Rungtas had planned to build a stadium within the land of the Sawai Man Singh Stadium at a low cost of Rs. 50-60 lakh. But, forty years ago building a stadium was a real big dream as the RCA had no funds of its own. But when the question of raising funds to build the stadium arose it was Lata Mangeshkar, who at the instance of Raj Singh Dungarpur and the late Cricket Board President P M Rungta agreed to hold a Lata Mangeshkar Nite in Jaipur free and raise funds for the proposed stadium. But the idea never saw the light of the day. The idea of the RCA's own stadium came during the golden jubilee function of the RCA in which three teams India, West Indies, and Pakistan were present. The gala function at the Rambagh Palace was a memorable event and is remembered fondly even today. During the golden jubilee function, NKP Salve, who was the President of the Cricket Board was invited as the guest of honour. And a very gala banquet was organised in which the Indian, Pakistani and the West Indies team took part. During this function, a demand for a cricket stadium was made.



"Aap Ki Nazron Ne Samjha Pyar Ke Kabil Mujhe"

During this function the Governor Air Chief Marshall (Retd) O P Mehra supported the demand for a stadium. During the function, then Chief Minister Shiv Charan Mathur rose to speak and passed the buck on NKP P Salve by saying that Jaipur can certainly have a stadium if the Cricket Board allows more international matches to Jaipur. Mathur said, if more matches were allotted to Jaipur it would help the RCA earn more profits by staging matches and the profit could be used for building a stadium. Salve as DCCI President acceded to the request made by Chief Minister Mathur. But, nothing happened to the stadium project though the RCA secretary Kishor Rungta and his uncle Kishan Rungta made representations to the state government.

A Tremendous Challenge
Lata Mangeshkar would regularly ask both PM Rungta and Raj Singh Dungarpur as to when the Nite would be organised. But as the state government did not issue the allotment letter of the land, the project never took off. "During the 1983 Prudential World Cup I had gone to London to watch the semi-final and final. Lata Mangeshkar was already in London and both of us were looking for passes to watch the semi-final and final. We approached Salve and A W Kannamadhikar for

tries particularly Pakistan and finally got the approval of holding the World Cup jointly with Pakistan. It was a tremendous challenge as the funds were a big problem. But I remember how Salve Saheb and my father P M Rungta tide over all the problems and roped in Dhruvhai Ambani to hold the World Cup which was named Reliance World Cup," remembers Kishor Rungta. Kishor Rungta remembers the jubilation after India's victory in the World Cup final over the West Indies as he was a witness to the final. "Just after the final at Lord's Salve Saheb and IS Bindra, who was also in Lord's visited the players enclosure to congratulate the Indian team. Salve Saheb made an announcement that a public reception would be held to honour the World Cup-winning team and each member of the team would get Rs one lakh." But raising Rs. 15 lakh was not an easy task. So Bindra suggested to Salve sahib to speak to Lata Mangeshkar and persuade her to appear for a Lata Mangeshkar Nite in Delhi and this way funds could be raised by advertisements and ticket sales to pay the cricketers. Thus the ball was now in Salve Saheb court. Salve Saheb had known Lataji for 30 years and knew her love for cricket. He was also Lataji's Chartered Accountant" remembers Kishor Rungta.



the passes, but the host the English Cricket Board refused to give passes and expressed its inability. S S Ray, former West Bengal Chief Minister and his wife Maya Ray were also there and wanted passes to watch the match. But, the hosts were unwilling to oblige. However, after great difficulty, two passes were organised for me and Lata Mangeshkar. She was also given a prime seat befitting her status. But Salve was very critical of the way the hosts denied the Indian cricket Board officials pass and it was there at that time in London when he decided that India should bid for the next World Cup. He threw a hint also during the International Cricket Conference (ICC) meeting to the ECB officials. That's how India decided to make a bid for the World Cup and later mustered the support of the other Asian coun-

tries particularly Pakistan and finally got the approval of holding the World Cup jointly with Pakistan. It was a tremendous challenge as the funds were a big problem. But I remember how Salve Saheb and my father P M Rungta tide over all the problems and roped in Dhruvhai Ambani to hold the World Cup which was named Reliance World Cup," remembers Kishor Rungta. Kishor Rungta remembers the jubilation after India's victory in the World Cup final over the West Indies as he was a witness to the final. "Just after the final at Lord's Salve Saheb and IS Bindra, who was also in Lord's visited the players enclosure to congratulate the Indian team. Salve Saheb made an announcement that a public reception would be held to honour the World Cup-winning team and each member of the team would get Rs one lakh." But raising Rs. 15 lakh was not an easy task. So Bindra suggested to Salve sahib to speak to Lata Mangeshkar and persuade her to appear for a Lata Mangeshkar Nite in Delhi and this way funds could be raised by advertisements and ticket sales to pay the cricketers. Thus the ball was now in Salve Saheb court. Salve Saheb had known Lataji for 30 years and knew her love for cricket. He was also Lataji's Chartered Accountant" remembers Kishor Rungta.

Lata heard Salve in the presence of Raj Singh and she agreed to do the concert free and raise Rs. 15 lakh for the players. This gesture of lata was backed by Raj Singh and the players knew that it was eventually Raj Singh that saw the players receiving Rs one lakh each through the Delhi show. The Delhi show also had Dilip Kumar as a spe-

cial guest who came along with Saira Bano to grace the musical evening at the Indira Gandhi Stadium. But, this show was largely organised due to the efforts of Raj Singh and P M Rungta who coordinated from Mumbai and Delhi for the success of the show. This author's daughter Meenu Jain, who is happily married and lives in New York with her merchant banker husband Ankur Jain and her two kids Nirvaan and Sana was offered the support of Lata Mangeshkar to study in Cambridge. My son Parikshit was sent to Mumbai to learn business with Shirish Ponglia, who was in the diamond business. Peeyu was doing her post-graduation in English literature at Bombay University after doing her BA (Honours) from Jaipur's Maharani College with merit. Both my son and daughter were thus staying in Mumbai and Raj Singh was very kind to them for granting them temporary membership of the Cricket Club of India. This enabled them to visit the CCI and enjoy food and other facilities.



Lata Mangeshkar's "Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon" left Nehru in tears.

their families. The first beneficiary of this was C S Naidu of Indore, who was given Rs. 5000 through this Trust courtesy Lata Mangeshkar. Lata Mangeshkar had a very good relationship with the Rungta family, particularly P M Rungta. Later during a function to celebrate the 75th birthday of left-arm spinner Bishan Singh Bedi in Delhi which was hosted by Kapil Deo I had a chance to speak to Kapil Deo and Kapil talked about the money that flowed now in cricket. "Humain World Cup jeejne par 1983 mein ek lakh mila tha, Rajasthan government ne public function kar sabhi khilariyon ko gyarah-gyarah hazar rupaye diye. Lekin agar us samay Lata Mangeshkar ne Delhi mein function kar funds raise nahi kiya hota to humein kuch bhi nahi milta. Hum unke hamesha shukraguzar rahenge" During this Bedi's birthday celebration some of the old Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) officials said that the DDCA as a co-host of the Lata Mangeshkar Nite received Rs. 17 lakh for building the cricket stadium and for this they were grateful to the efforts of Salve and P M Rungta.

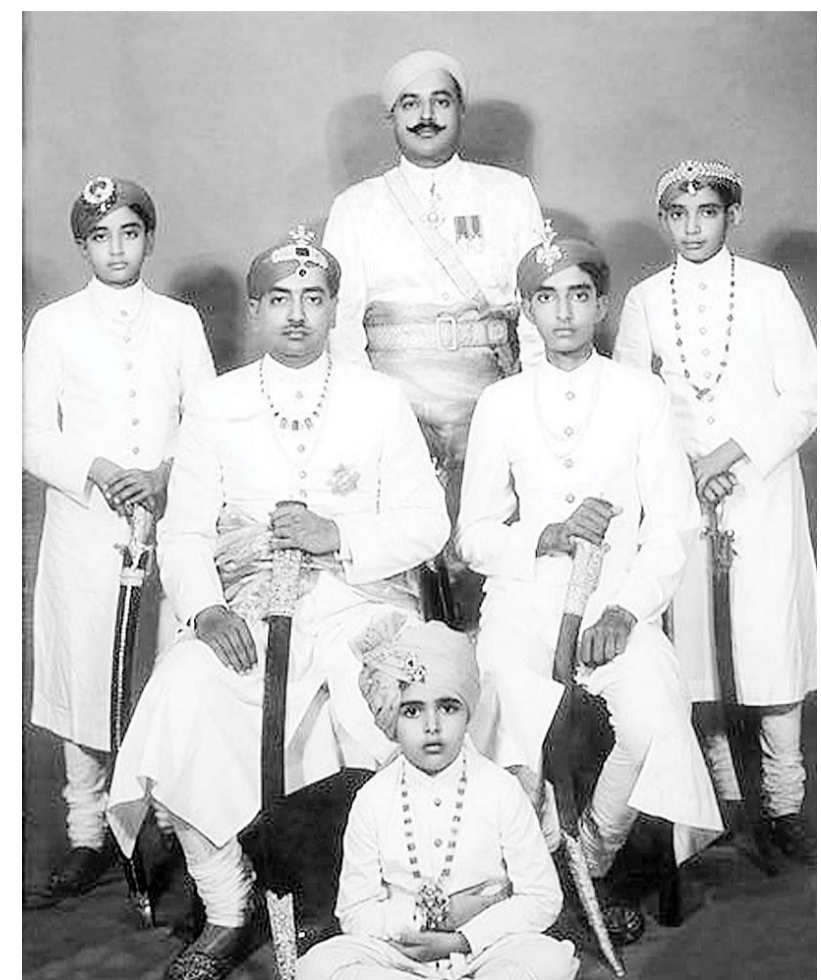
Foster Daughter
"In our Mumbai's Rungta House, great playback singer Mukesh, who was a close friend of my father was staying in a block, and on Tuesday Mukesh would sing bhajan for my grandfather Mahaveer Prasadji and my grandmother. On the colourful Holi day each year, Lata ji would come to Mukeshji's house to greet him and we the members of the Rungta family would join the Holi celebration in Rungta House. This continued so long Mukeshji lived. This author's daughter Meenu Jain, who is happily married and lives in New York with her merchant banker husband Ankur Jain and her two kids Nirvaan and Sana was offered the support of Lata Mangeshkar to study in Cambridge. My son Parikshit was sent to Mumbai to learn business with Shirish Ponglia, who was in the diamond business. Peeyu was doing her post-graduation in English literature at Bombay University after doing her BA (Honours) from Jaipur's Maharani College with merit. Both my son and daughter were thus staying in Mumbai and Raj Singh was very kind to them for granting them temporary membership of the Cricket Club of India. This enabled them to visit the CCI and enjoy food and other facilities.

Raising Funds
Later late Raj Singh told this author that a total of Rs. 38 lakh were raised through the Lata Mangeshkar Nite and after giving to the players and the manager, Rs. 5 lakh was given to the Cricket Board and created a "Lata Mangeshkar Trust". This sum, however paltry now with the BCCI rolling in billions is still precious. This fund was created to help the indigent cricketers, who needed money to support



World Human Spirit Day

So many of our statements nowadays end with "the world as we know it". World Human Spirit Day is a celebration of the fact that what we know about our own world is limited and superficial. It is a day to wonder at our achievements on this planet as humans. A day to give a higher power thanks for what we have and what we don't have, for making us who we are and for giving us the ability to touch others.



(Standing at the back) Maharaj Virbhadra Singh Sahib of Dungarpur, Maharaj Jai Singh and Maharaj Raj Singh. (Sitting) HH Rai-Rayan Maharawal Lakshman Singh with Mahipal Singh and Samar Singh (sitting on the floor).



Raj Singh would frequently visit Ranthambhore. He used to carry a small tape recorder that had recorded songs of Lata Mangeshkar which he would play often during a journey.

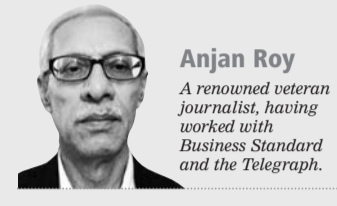
Daughter Peeyu was given access to the huge library where she would study. Peeyu was among the toppers in MA of Bombay University and when she conveyed the news to Raj Singh, he was very happy and suggested to her that she pursue higher studies. She was offered some financial support through the Lata Mangeshkar Foundation of London. This Foundation was set up by Lataji by funds received from the two shows organised in London's Albert Hall. Peeyu was asked to apply for the M Phil Course in Cambridge through the British Council in Delhi. Lataji promised to support her studies by partly meeting her expenditure. But even before her application was forwarded, the Prince Charming came from New York to Jaipur to meet her and she got engaged to Ankur Jain, son of Dal Chand Jain, who was a freedom fighter from Kota and was given the status of freedom fighter for participation in Goa's freedom movement. Peeyu to this day remembers this gesture of Lataji and Raj Singh which she could not avail.

Lataji had a foster daughter in Sangeeta Gupta, the daughter of music director Madan Mohan, who was a "Rakhi brother" of Lataji. Sangeeta and her husband Rajiv live in Jaipur and when they were married in Mumbai in 1982, Lataji issued the wedding invitation in her name. She would always be in touch with Sangeeta and cared for Sangeeta as her own daughter. When she came to Jaipur to perform in the Lata Mangeshkar Nite, she went to Sangeeta's house in Civil Lines for tea.

Nightingale was known for her love for wildlife and she had captured a lot of photographs of wildlife in her camera. She had a desire to visit Ranthambhore, a desire which remain unfulfilled. But Raj Singh would frequently visit Ranthambhore and he brought a number of his English friend including former England skipper Ted Dexter to Ranthambhore. Raj Singh used to carry a small tape recorder that had recorded songs of Lata Mangeshkar which he would play often during a journey. One heard Raj Singh during a trip to Ranthambhore playing the tape recorder for Lata's famous number "Aap Ki Nazron Ne Samjha Pyar Ke Kabil Mujhe".

#OBITUARY

Rahul Bajaj The Prince Of Bombay Club



Anjan Roy
A renowned veteran journalist, having worked with Business Standard and the Telegraph.

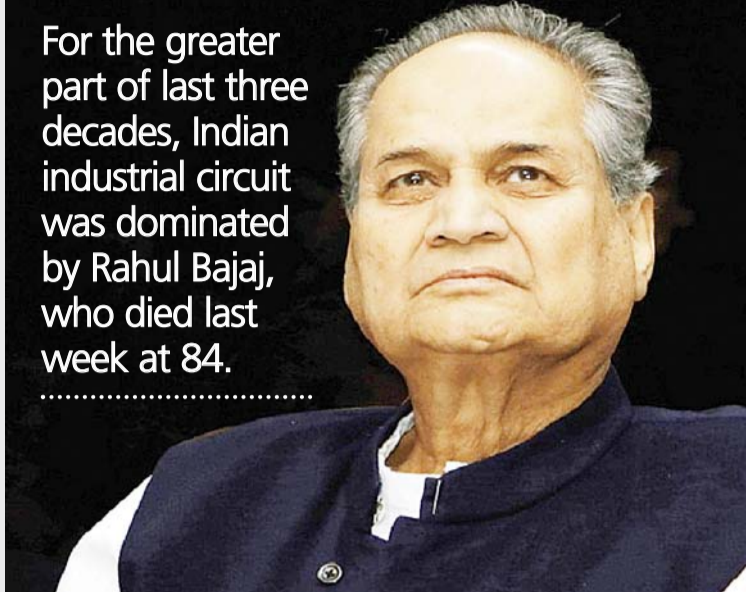
For the greater part of last three decades, Indian industrial circuit was dominated by Rahul Bajaj, who died last week at 84.

He was a cut above all else, because he would shoot his mouth off at the slightest opportunity Tall and elegant, every bit bearing the weight of old money spanning a century, Rahul matched his physical presence with a spirit of controlled defiance. When the Narasimha Rao government was opening up the Indian economy, tariffs were being lowered and industrial policy refashioned to permit entry of foreign capital more freely into the country. Rahul Bajaj spoke out loud against it.

He organised members of the Indian industrialist class who were opposed to fast opening up, particularly, allowing the rights of outsiders to come in and invest, under what came to be known as "The Bombay Club." Opening up trade was alright. However, allowing the foreigners right to invest was really cutting into the preserved spaces of the indigenous money bags. It would mean competition at home, which could be uncomfortable for the old money, although they had pro-

fessed the policy of free competition for years. But that was for the sake of dialogue and appearances sake, not to be taken literally. In driving his thrust against the government of the day, for which he had built up a carefully cultivated image, he used the platform of the Confederation of Indian Industry - or the better known CII- whose director general Tarun Das was his most valuable platform builder. CII was not just an industry association.

Tarun Das had given it a flavour of being a public affairs platform, which for ever was advocating policies and measures for the greater good of the country, its economy and its people at large. Not content with Rahul Bajaj's Bombay Club opposition to liberation and opening up, the CII director general had come out with a short and succinct paper which described the foreigners as "Cowboy Capitalists", thereby equating investors with the



For the greater part of last three decades, Indian industrial circuit was dominated by Rahul Bajaj, who died last week at 84.

high handed bravados of Western "Cowboy" tradition. Various modes of criticism and opposition had to be employed to get the desired end results after all. It had of course begun much earlier. In the days of his socialist thrusts of Indira Gandhi's prime-ministerial rule, the government had one act of faith - a suspicion of industry and industrialists. She was the epitome of control mania and Indian industry was tied up from every possible angle to stop them from

sweeping down on an unsuspecting people. Rahul Bajaj, had spoken out against the government's policy thrusts and imposition of control on Big Business to become bigger. That had laid the foundations of a lifelong role of a "fearless critic" which was last asserted in 2019 when he spoke of public lynching, an environment of fear of the government in raising questions and general intolerance before the union home minister, Amit Shah. He could afford it, because he was the scion of one of the oldest business families of Bombay. His father was the adopted son of Mahatma Gandhi and, as he had claimed in that open meeting with Amit Shah, he was named by none other than Jawaharlal Nehru.

He was then past eighty, showing signs of old age and rambling statements. Amit Shah had responded in good humour to his long question, suggesting that after that question nobody should at least be scared to raise questions with the government.

#AQI

Work From Home Worse

The air quality inside homes may not stack up against air quality inside office buildings, according to a new study. For the pilot study in Atmosphere, researchers delved into indoor air quality and health outcomes in people working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Researchers measured indoor air quality in both the offices and homes of employees in 2019 and 2020 and evaluated their health outcomes during those periods.

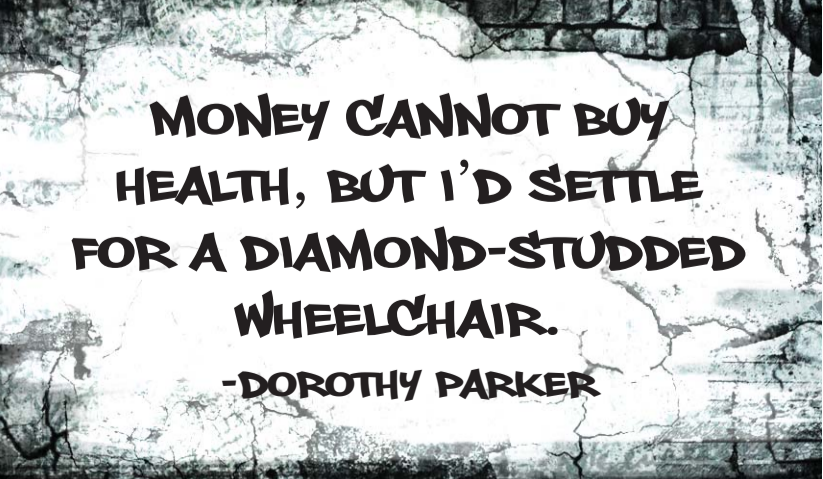
Researchers measured indoor air quality in both the offices and homes of employees in 2019 and 2020 and evaluated their health outcomes during those periods.



grown dramatically over the past two decades and skyrocketed since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning home indoor air quality can be considered a workplace health issue. The researchers used a standard consumer-grade air quality monitor to collect data on air temperature, relative humidity and concentrations of particulate matter and VOCs. At the same time, the researchers collected data on outdoor air temperature and particulate matter concentration from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Additionally, the researchers had participants complete a survey where they ranked the prevalence of symptoms like dry, itchy, or watery eyes, stuffy nose, and dry or irritated skin on a scale ranging from not experiencing symptoms to having them every day.

The participants all lived in single-family homes with central air conditioning and none of the people living in any of the households smoked or worked with hazardous materials. The study found that the fine particulate matter concentrations were significantly higher in the participants' homes than in their offices, and the home levels were greater than the standard for a healthy work environment. The researchers also found that VOC concentrations were higher in homes compared to offices; however, the VOC concentrations in both places were well below the limit set by health standards. The majority of employees in the study reported higher frequencies of symptoms while working at home. The findings of this study point to the importance of indoor air quality for people working from home and the need for measures to improve indoor air quality. This could be as simple as opening windows when outdoor air quality allows it or providing remote workers with air purifiers. Taking steps to improve indoor air quality in both conventional office buildings and home offices will likely become a growing area of study for public health researchers and employers looking to ensure health, safety, and productivity.

THE WALL

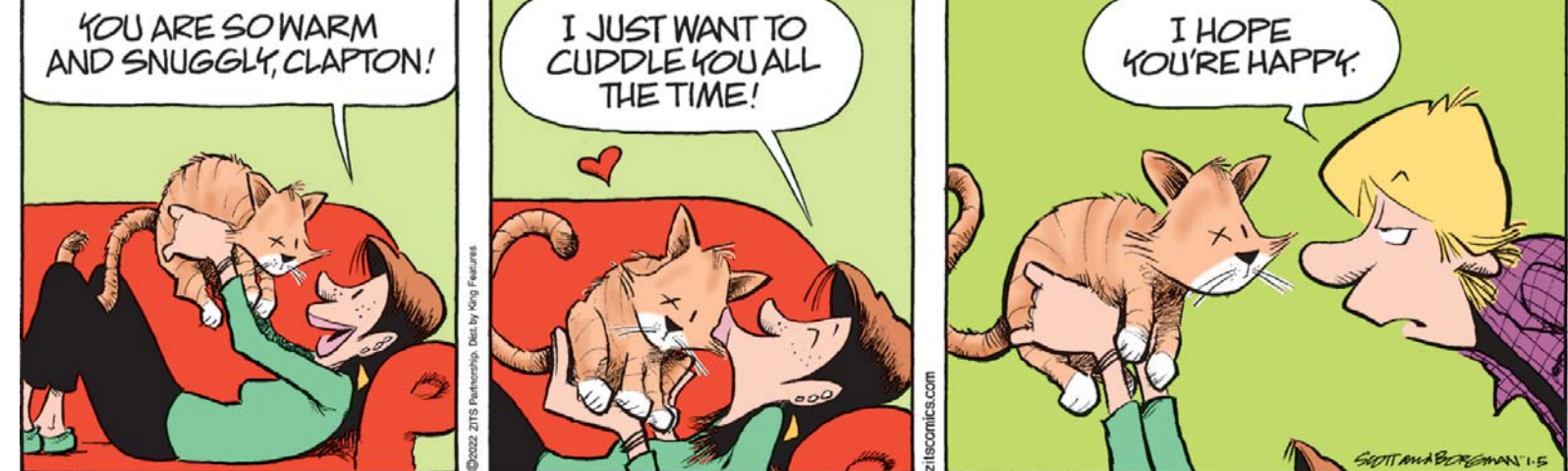


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman