

9/1/24 - TUESDAY

The year 1974 - an epitome of grace and sophistication emerged from a large white van, (Railway Workshop Jagadhri) stepping out to buy fruit in our one horse town market of Yamunanagar. Not any fruit from the fruit shop, but - "In Calcutta Hindi describing the fruit as - gol gol, pilla pilla, bada size ka phal in an animated manner" I, standing by in the adjacent shop buying fruit myself, somewhat bewildered, I interjected to help the vendors understand the requirement. "Like a Chakotra, a grapefruit" I said & lo & behold in a flash the fruit wala went into a ~~who~~ hole of a store at the back and produced a grapefruit, from a sunny bag to the delight of Mrs Mathur!

So here lies the tail of a first encounter 50 years ago to date, that was to blossom into lifelong friendship, love & affection that has endured overcoming time and distance, even if oceans apart!!