

**A life without memory would be a strange,**



unknowable life. Despite the new mindfulness movement, a forced living in the eternal now, sounds like a sort of existential hell, where no thought or action can impact another. Memory, or 'the faculty of the mind by which information is encoded, stored, and retrieved', is defined as 'vital to experiences' and is the retention of information over time for the purpose of influencing future action. Mnemonics and symbols by supporting memory, give us a sense of who we are, in the broadest sense of the concept; and the most tangible of this is the built form.

Stepping away from the morass of history being written from the victor's perspective; art, artifact and architecture provide us with a vision of where we come from and trace down to who we are, or can be. Great edifices of commemoration, of learning and of veneration of the gods, create a reservoir of inspiration and instruction for the path ahead. And playing both groundsman and gatekeeper are conservationists, who nourish and maintain these structures so that the present and future generations may enjoy and take inspiration from the work of the past.

As we come to the end of another year that's flown by, IFJ bows to the great work of the past and appreciates the great work of the present in keeping these structures alive for the future.

We dedicate this final edition of IFJ 2017, that commemorates memory, to the memory of Dame Helen Alexander, chief executive of The Economist Group 1997 to 2008, and Chairman of UBM plc and member of several other boards, but most of all, an immense champion and inspiration to women in the workplace.

We trust the year has been good to all the readers of IFJ and wish you a happy holiday season, with the good wishes of Team IFJ for the year ahead.



I look forward to hearing from you.  
Please send your thoughts to me at [sylvia@ifj.co.in](mailto:sylvia@ifj.co.in)