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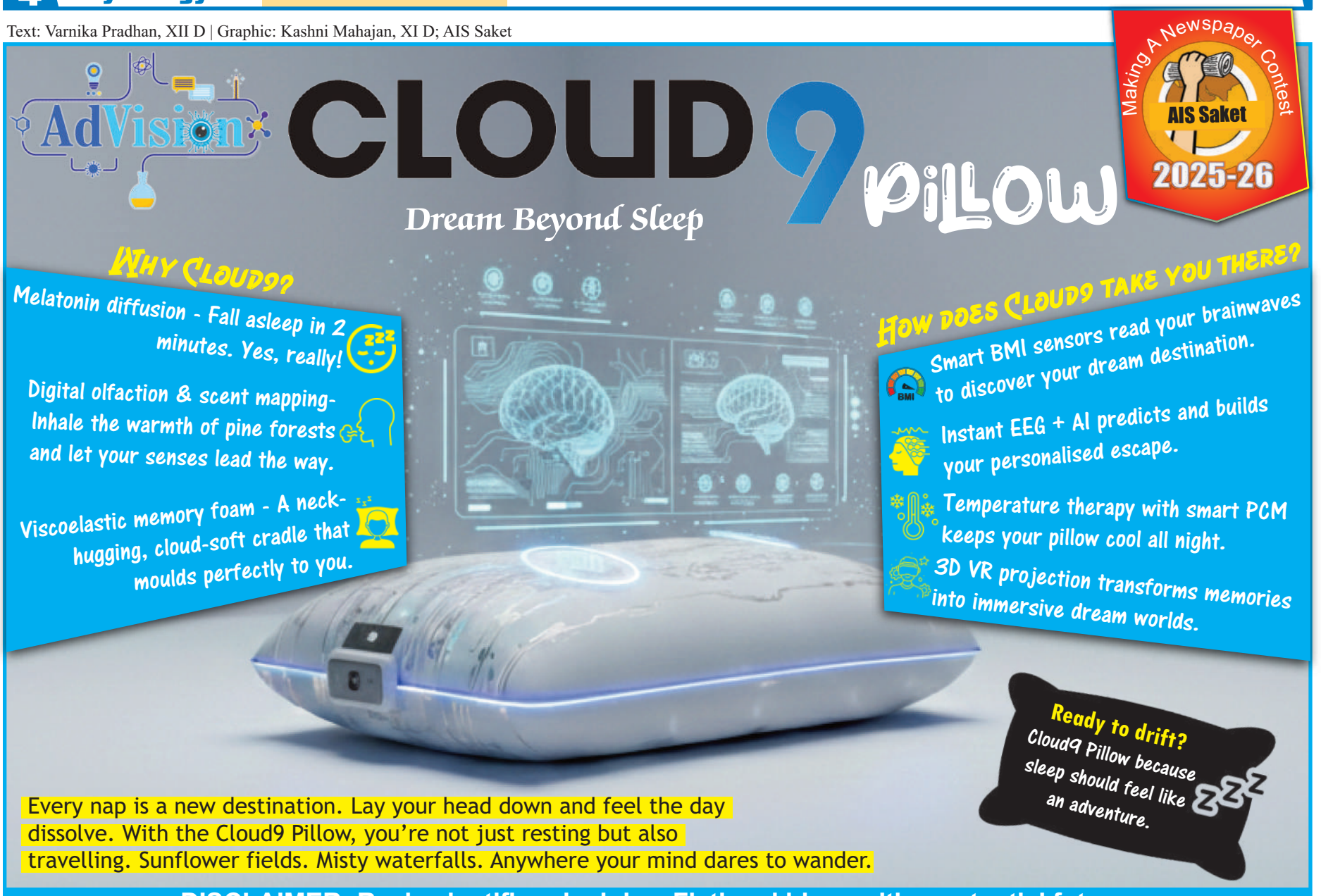


Sun brought down to Earth

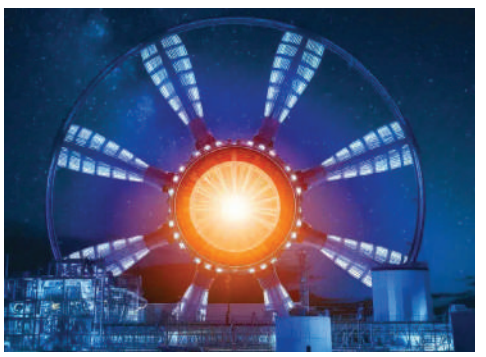
A Journey Through Time To Witness A Clean Future

Siyona Gupta, AIS Gurugram 43, IX C

For centuries, humanity has gazed in wonder at the sun – our blazing engine of life. While Icarus dreamt to fly to the sun, humans aspired to recreate it on Earth. The idea took shape at the 1985 Geneva Summit. Today, that dream has almost turned real. So hop in, because our time traveller is taking you on a journey to share the tale of ITER.

2025: The dream comes true

The time traveller arrives in Cadarache, Southern France, to the sound of machinery. The site, a construction zone encircled by international flags, is filled with engineers working on the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, i.e., ITER – Latin for 'the way'. The world is still using fossil fuels. Together, 35 nations, including India, China, the EU, Russia, and the US, intend to create the most extravagant fusion reactor, designed to produce 500 MW of fusion power from 50 MW of input.



2035: The machine comes alive

When the traveller returns, the valley feels transformed. A gleaming tokamak - shaped like a giant metal doughnut - dominates the landscape. Inside, engineers are preparing a magnetic 'cage' strong enough to confine plasma hotter than the sun's core. The traveller learns that fusion happens when light atoms - deuterium and tritium - combine to form helium, releasing enormous energy. Unlike fission, which splits heavy atoms and produces long-lived radioactive waste, fusion generates no carbon emissions and leaves behind minimal waste.

2045: The first light

The countdown pulls the traveller into the control room. Three, two, one... ITER ignites with a brilliant pulse as the first plasma bursts into being. For the first time, humanity sees a star burning inside a metal chamber. The experiment achieves net energy gain, sustained plasma confinement, and even tests tritium-breeding systems to generate its own fuel.

2055: Energy without end

The world the traveller enters now feels cleaner and quieter. Cities run on fusion power instead of coal or oil. Blue skies show reduced carbon emissions. ITER - uniting Europe, Asia, and America under one scientific vision - stands as a monument to global cooperation. The artificial sun keeps burning, its energy sustaining a planet full of hope. Watching this future unfold, the time traveller finally ends its journey. GT

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On top of it all, pitching adults almost twice their age can easily make them feel like they don't belong, at times leading to the feeling of imposter syndrome and affecting their mental health as well.

Despite the hurdles, 32.5% of Indian students desire to become entrepreneurs, as per GUESS India 2023 report. Their is motto, 'onwards and upwards'. Hence, the teenpreneur era isn't just a trend, it's a movement. India is the world's third largest startup ecosystem with over 1.59 lakh registered startups as of January 2025. It also has the highest youth population in the world. These two factors together make India the ideal petri dish for fearless, innovative enterprises. That's why these innovators aren't asking, "Can I?" They're saying, "Watch me."

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