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S the year 2024 approaches, higher education is poised to undergo an unprecedented transformation, propelled by rapid technological advancements. Hybrid learning is gaining ground, and educators are taking on expanded roles that encompass both digital and in-person instruction.

There is also a growing emphasis on developing practical skills to ensure lifelong learning and ca-

practical skills is driving a shift in curriculum and teaching methods, and universities and colleges are increasingly providing students with opportunities to gain hands-on experience through internships and industry partnerships. As a result, it is apparent that higher education will continue to adapt in order to fulfill students' everchanging requirements, transforming the educational environment.

The key trends that will



reer success. This focus on worldwide:

increasingly popular way for them to balance their academic obligations with their commitments.

Lifelong learning

In today's rapidly evolving world, the importance of lifelong learning cannot be overstated. With technology advancing at lightning speed, staying up-to-date with the latest skills and knowledge is imperative to remain competitive in the job market.

This makes lifelong learning a vital aspect for students across all indus-

reshape the educational landscape in 2024 and beyond, benefiting students

Rise in hybrid learning The paradigm of education, which was once limited to traditional classroom settings and textbooks, is now breaking free with the advent of blended learning models. These models, which ingeniously combine online and face-toface instruction, are not just a passing trend but a transformative educational revolution that will continue to gain momentum over time. As students increasingly undertake more projects in the future, blended learning will become an

educators As the educational land-

Evolving role of

success.

scape continues to evolve, the role of educators is also rapidly transforming. By 2024, educators will confidently embrace new technologies and adopt a more dynamic approach to facilitating learning. They will guide students through hands-on activities and encourage critical thinking and problem-solving skills, ensuring that they are wellequipped to meet the challenges.

tries, enabling them to

adapt to new technologies and stay ahead of the

curve. Furthermore, the

significance of continu-

ous learning extends be-

yond technical skills, with

a growing emphasis on

developing essential soft

skills such as communica-

tion, leadership, and criti-

cal thinking. Thus, these

skills are increasingly es-

sential in today's collabo-

rative work environments,

making lifelong learning an indispensable tool for

Moreover, educators will collaborate with industry professionals to ensure that the curriculum remains relevant and aligned with the needs of the market, thus creating an engaging and forward-looking learning environment for students. As a result, this shift in the role of educators is set to revolutionize the educational sector and equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the 21st

Paving the way for future!

Undoubtedly, 2023 was a definitive year for the education industry, characterized by remarkable technological advancements and innovations. The breakthroughs have opened up new avenues for higher education that are more accessible, personalized, and dynamic. Looking ahead to 2024, we can confidently predict a surge in hybrid, lifelong learning, and an evolving role of educators, which will significantly shape the future of higher education. What is more, it is crucial to keep a watchful eye on these trends and continually adapt to the changing needs of students as we progress.

> (The author is Chancellor, KL Deemed to be University)



IIT RESEARCHERS HARNESS PLANT **CELLS TO PRODUCE** ANTI-CANCER DRUG

Hans News Service Chennai

 $R^{ ext{ESEARCHERS}}$ at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and Mandi have metabolically engineered the plant cells of Nothapodytes nimmoniana to increase the production of Camptothecin, which is used to treat cancer.

Using computational tools, researchers at IIT Madras' Plant Cell Technology Lab developed a genomescale metabolic model for N. nimmoniana plant cells.

The team experimentally validated the overexpression of an enzyme predicted by the model, leading to the development of a 5-fold high camptothecin-yielding cell line of N. nimmoniana in comparison to the untransformed plant cell line.

This can be a major boost

to produce cancer-treating drugs as Camptothecin - the third most in-demand alkaloid - is commercially extracted in India from Nothapodytes nimmoniana, which is an endangered plant, they said in the paper published in the peer-reviewed Journal Frontiers of Plant Science.

"Integration of metabolic engineering with bioprocess engineering principles can ensure enhanced and sustainable production of Camptothecin, to continuously meet its increasing market demand in minimum time and cost in addition to natural resource conservation," Said Prof. Smita Srivastava, from the Department of Biotechnology, IIT Madras.

Camptothecin (CPT) is an important anti-cancer drug lead molecule for highvalue drugs like Topotecan and Irinotecan. It is a potent topoisomerase I inhibitor extracted mainly from - Camptotheca acuminata (native to Eastern Asia) and Nothapodytes nimmoniana (native to India).

However, the conjunction of climate change and extensive deforestation undertaken for CPT extraction has pushed these plants into the endangered species category.

"The new platform technology for model-based rational metabolic engineering of plant cells can be adapted to enhance the production of many other high-value phytochemicals as well. This study can pave the way for effective and efficient commercial production of camptothecin and other medicinally important monoterpene indole alkaloids, with reduced dependence on nature," said co-investigator Prof. Karthik Raman, from IIT Madras.

Study

Being overly optimistic may lead to poor decision-making

Hans News Service New Delhi

 $P_{\text{are frequently connected with}}^{\text{ositive thinking and optimism}}$ success in life, good health, and longevity; but, a new study has suggested that it can also lead to poor decision-making, with particularly serious implications for people's financial wellbeing.

In the study published in the journal Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, the researchers from the UK-based University of Bath showed that excessive optimism is actually associated with lower cognitive skills such as verbal fluency, fluid reasoning, numerical reasoning, and memory.

Whereas those high on cognitive ability tend to be both more realistic and pessimistic in their expectations about the future.

"Forecasting the future with accuracy is difficult and for that reason, we might expect those with low cognitive ability to make more errors in judgments, both pessimistic and optimistic. But the results are clear: low cognitive ability leads to more self-flattering biases - people essentially deluding themselves to a degree," said Dr Chris Dawson of the University's School of Manage-

"Plans based on overly optimistic beliefs make for poor decisions and are bound to deliver worse outcomes than would realistic beliefs," he added.

According to the researchers, decisions on major financial issues such as employment, investments or savings, and any choice involving risk and uncertainty, were particularly prone to this effect and posed



The study took data from a UK

survey of over 36,000 households

and looked at people's expectations

of their financial well-being and

compared them with their actual

est on cognitive ability experienced

a 22 per cent increase in the probability of "realism" and a 35 per cent

decrease in the probability of "ex-

"Unrealistic optimism is one of

the most pervasive human traits and research has shown people con-

sistently underestimate the negative

and accentuate the positive. The

concept of 'positive thinking' is al-

most unquestioningly embedded in

our culture - and it would be healthy

to revisit that belief," Dawson said.

The study found that those high-

financial outcomes.

treme optimism".

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Tech-Talk

Microsoft brings AI-powered Copilot app to iOS, iPadOS

FTER Android, Micro-Asoft has launched its AI-powered Copilot app for Apple iOS and iPadOS users. Both versions of the Copilot app (formerly Bing chat) are now available to download from the Apple App

The app works similarly to OpenAl's ChatGPT mobile app. "Improve your productivity with Copilot - your AI-powered chat assistant. Copilot is a pioneering chat assistant from Microsoft

Store.

powered by the latest OpenAI models, GPT-4 and DALL E 3," according to the app description.

Unlike the free version of ChatGPT which runs GPT-3.5, Copilot lets you access GPT-4, the latest large language model (LLM) from OpenAI, for free.

The Copilot app on iOS allows access to chatbot capabilities, image generation through DALL-E 3, and the ability to draft text for emails and documents.

"These advanced AI technologies provide fast, complex, and precise responses,

as well as the ability to create breathtaking visuals from simple text descriptions. Chat and create all in one place for free," according to Microsoft.

The tech giant recently rebranded Bing Chat to Copilot. The tech giant has also partnered with Suno, a leader in AI-based music creation, to bring their capabilities to Copilot.

Earlier this month, the company announced a number of new features which will be added to its Copilot service soon, including OpenAI's latest models.

Occided Home Finance | Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India Branch Office: Supriya Towers, Upper Ground Floor, D. No. 5-37-155, 4/15 Brodipet, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh- 522002

[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is

whe	ere is , "As is what is", and "Whatever	there is , as per the	prier particula	urs given here	runder,	
Sr. No.		Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
1.	Lakkepogu Bujji (Borrower) Lakkepogu Raju (Co-Borrower) Loan Account No. LHGTR00001400444 & LHGTR00001395671		Rs. 29,45,413/- December 15, 2023	Rs. 26,97,975/-		January 19, 2024 02:00 PM- 03:00 PM
				Rs. 2.69.800/-		

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- https://BestAuctionDeal.com) of our auction agency Globe Tech. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till January 18, 2024 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as perabove schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Supriya Towers, Upper Ground Floor, D. No. 5-37-155, 4/15 Brodipet, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh-522002 on or before January 18, 2024 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Supriya Towers, Upper Ground Floor, D. No. 5-37-155, 4/15 Brodipet, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh-522002 on or before January 18, 2024 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank in favorof "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd.- Auction" payable at Guntur.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300 or our Sales & Marketing

tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300 or our Sales & Marketing Partner NexXen Solutions Private Limited.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit https://www.icicihfc.com/ Date: January 01, 2024 Place: Guntur

Authorized Officer

ICICI Home Finance Company Limited