

NEWS IN BRIEF

AI post-apocalypse exhibit in San Francisco



Advances in artificial intelligence are coming so hard and fast that a museum in San Francisco, the beating heart of the tech revolution, has imagined a memorial to the demise of humanity. "Sorry for killing most of humanity person with smile cap and mustache," says a monitor welcoming a visitor to the "Misalignment Museum", a new exhibit on the controversial technology, AFP reported.

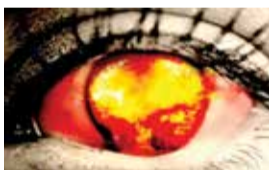
The pieces in this temporary show mix the disturbing with the comic, and this first display has AI disburse pithy observations to the visitors that cross into its line of vision.

"The concept of the museum is that we are in a post-apocalyptic world where artificial general intelligence has already destroyed most of humanity," said Audrey Kim, the show's curator.

"But then the AI realizes that was bad and creates a type of memorial to the human, so our show's tagline is 'sorry for killing most of humanity,'" she said.

Artificial General Intelligence is a concept that is even more nebulous than the simple AI that is cascading into everyday life, as seen in the fast emergence of apps such as ChatGPT or Bing's chatbot and all the hype surrounding them.

AGI is "artificial intelligence that is able to do anything that a human would be able to do", integrating human cognitive capacities into machines.



All around San Francisco, and down the peninsula in Silicon Valley, startups are hot on the trail of the AGI holygrail.

Sam Altman, the founder of ChatGPT creator OpenAI, has said AGI, done right, can "elevate humanity" and change the "limits of possibilities."

But Kim wants to trigger a reflection on the dangers of going too far, too quickly.

"There have been lots of conversations about the safety of AI in pretty niche intellectual tech circles on Twitter and I think that's very important," she said.

But those conversations are not as easily accessible to the general public as concepts that you can see or feel, she added.

Kim is particularly fond of a sculpture called "Paperclip Embrace": two busts of humans holding each other, made entirely of paperclips.

In memoriam:

Creator of aromatic Hashemi-rice Yusef Hashemizadeh

Iranian rice, the aroma of which bewitches even the foreigners, was not so fragrant from the get go; the

talent and art of Iranians made it so. One of these talented Iranians was, of course, Yusef Hashem-

izadeh, who sadly passed away today aged 74 in Rasht, Gilan Province, northern Iran.



The ancient Iranians thought that rice was brought to Iran from India by Borzuya, the famous Persian physician. According to historical sources, rice cultivation was popularized in Iran from the Sassanid period on and in the modern era it became a staple of the main Iranian dishes. In the Qajar period, Edward Pollack wrote: "Iranians cannot even imagine heaven without rice," according to Fars News Agency.

An example of homegrown rice in Iran is that of Hashemi, cultivated for the first time around four decades

ago by Yusef Hashemizadeh, and introduced to Iranians.

Yusef was a farmer in Gilan, who noticed some strange rice clusters in 1985 in his field. These clusters differed from other rice clusters he knew and was accustomed to. They were taller than the other and had a narrower stem. He collected these special clusters and put them away until the following year. Then, at the beginning of spring, he got a separate treasury for them. He harvested them separately and carefully for several years. In the

fifth and sixth year, the handful of clusters that he found at the beginning culminated in nearly a metric ton of rice.

He took these rice paddies to the rice threshing floor of Chapar Khaneh Village. When the manager of the factory saw the rice, he instantly realized that he was dealing with a different sort of rice.

He asked Yusuf Hashemizadeh the name of his rice. Yusef replied that he has not come up with a name yet.

The manager named it Hashemi right then and there.

Iran's water crisis: Urgent measures for long-term sustainability



systems.

Agriculture is a significant contributor to Iran's water crisis, particularly the production of water-intensive fruits such as watermelon, cantaloupe, and honeydew. To address the issue, the authorities should put limits on such agricultural practices and promote efficient irrigation methods to reduce water usage.

Over-extraction of groundwater is another practice that needs to be immediately halted to maintain Iran's water reservoirs. The excessive pumping of groundwater has led to significant depletion of aquifers, contributing significantly to Iran's water crisis. The government must enforce strict regulations to limit groundwater extraction while encouraging farmers to switch to more efficient irrigation methods. Financial incentives could be provided to farmers who switch to modern irrigation meth-

The implementation of smart irrigation systems could also prove to be a feasible solution. These systems use sensors to detect soil moisture levels and adjust irrigation accordingly, thus reducing water wastage and improving irrigation efficiency. The government could provide financial incentives to farmers to encourage the installation of such

Page 1 >

ods, while penalties could be imposed on those who continue to overdo groundwater extraction.

In addition to ceasing inefficient practices, several methods could be employed to maintain Iran's water resources. Rainwater harvesting involves collecting and storing rainwater in tanks, reservoirs, or underground storages, providing a reliable source of water for agriculture and other uses while conserving water resources. Wastewater treatment and reuse can also significantly reduce the pressure on Iran's freshwater resources. By treating wastewater and reusing it for irrigation, industrial uses, or even drinking water, Iran can significantly reduce water pollution.

Seawater desalination is another potential solution to maintain Iran's water resources. Iran has abundant seawater resources, making desalination a

feasible option for providing freshwater. While desalination is an expensive process that requires a significant amount of energy and money, the government has been investing in constructing desalination plants in southern provinces facing severe water scarcity due to their arid climates.

Iran launched a major desalination project near southern Bandar Abbas port eight years ago to quench the thirst of three dry provinces of Hormozgan, Yazd and Kerman via a mega pipeline. The Saqi Kowsar project aims to extract one million cubic meters of freshwater per day from seawater.

The government has carried out and is completing several similar projects in adjacent Sistan and Baluchestan province. Implementing these solutions will require a substantial investment by the government, which could

be financed through a combination of public funds, private investment, and international aid. The scale and scope of the projects will determine the budget required.

In conclusion, Iran's water crisis is a significant challenge that requires urgent action. Adopting modern water management practices, promoting water conservation, and investing in new water sources such as rainwater harvesting, wastewater treatment, and seawater desalination are crucial measures that must be implemented. It is essential to work together, including the government, farmers, industries, and the public in the process, to ensure sustainable water management practices.

By doing so, Iran can preserve its water resources and ensure a secure water supply for its people and economy for a long time to come.

PIC OF THE DAY



The ninth National Festival of Snow City in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province is held on March 12, 2023, in Qassem Abad Village in Koohrang attended by 60 artists in 15 teams.

The photo shows a snow sculpture rendition of the famous tragedy of Rostam and Sohrab.