His Excellency the President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi inaugurates three antiquities museums in three governorates in one day

On 31 October, His Excellency the President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, inaugurated the first museum of antiquities in Sharm El-Sheikh, the first museum of antiquities in Kafr El-Sheikh (via video conference), and the development project of the Royal Carriages Museum at Bulaq (via video conference) from the city of Sharm el-Sheikh. After that HE The President visited Sharm El-Sheikh museum.

This emphasizes the support Egypt gives to the tourism and antiquities sector. It also shows the importance given to showcasing Egypt's unparalleled history and its unique civilization through establishing and upgrading museums that display our rich heritage through different historical eras. The Minister said that, this was an exceptional day in the history of Egypt's tourism and antiquities sector, as 3 important museums were opened in the governorates of Sharm El Sheikh, Kafr El Sheikh and Cairo, at a cost of nearly one billion pounds.
Ambassadors of the World Praise the Discovery of Saqqara on their Social Media Accounts

Ambassadors of many countries in Egypt praised, on their social media accounts, the archaeological discovery in Saqqara. The ambassadors of New Zealand and Mexico expressed their admiration and happiness with attending the process of opening one of the discovered coffins for the first time. The ambassador of France tweeted describing the discovery as "Wonderful and extraordinary"; and the Saudi ambassador, tweeted that he thanked the Minister for inviting him to attend the announcement of this big discovery.

The First "EasyJet" Flight Arrives at Sharm El-Sheikh from the UK

On 18 October, Sharm El-Sheikh International Airport received the first flight from the United Kingdom (London's Gatwick Airport), a flight belonging to "Easy Jet", UK's largest airline. The airline company had resumed its flights to Hurghada International Airport last September, after the resumption of the flights that had stopped due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Tourist Groups from Several Countries Flock to Various Archaeological Sites

After the resumption of cultural tourism to Egypt, starting from the first of last September, tourist groups from France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Ukraine and Belarus flocked to Luxor from Hurghada as part of "one-day" trips. The Egyptian Museum at Al-Tahrir also received a number of tourist groups coming from several countries, including Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. The pyramids area received tourist groups from many countries, including Belarus, Ukraine and Serbia.

Opening the First Restaurant at the Giza Plateau and Operating the First Environmental-Friendly Electric Bus

As part of the cooperation between Orascom Pyramids for recreational projects and the Supreme Council of Antiquities, the Minister attended the opening of the Nine Pyramids Lounge, the first restaurant in the Giza plateau, and the operation of the first environmentally friendly electric bus, which will be later used in the route of the visit of the Giza Plateau. The Minister, was accompanied by the Chairman and CEO of the company, along with more than 50 ambassadors from Foreign, Arab and African countries in Cairo. After its opening, the restaurant, which overlooks 9 Pyramids, received tourist groups, including groups from Belarus and Ukraine, coming from Sharm El-Sheikh on "one-day" trips.

Tourist groups in the restaurant

Inspection of Hotels and Tourist Establishments Continues

During the month of October, the joint inspection committees of the Ministry, the ministry of Health and Population and the Egyptian Hotels Association continued inspecting hotels that applied for the approved hygiene safety certificate to operate. The total number of hotels that obtained the certificate so far is 685 hotels in 24 governorates, 24 floating hotels; between Luxor and Aswan also obtained the certificate since the resumption of their cruises on 1 October, 2020; and 1035 restaurants and tourist cafeterias have so far obtained this certificate.

Tweet of the French Ambassador

Stéphane Romatet @SR... 6 h
Extraordinaire découverte d'une cinquantaine de sarcophages en parfait état de conservation datant de la 26ème dynastie (7ème siècle BC) sur le site de Saqqara. Vive l'Égyptologie ! @TourismandAntiq @ifaccaire – à Step Pyramid of Djoser (Sakkara) | حرم رئس المدرج |
His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi directs protecting tourism sector’s labor force

His Excellency President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi directed offering all necessary protection to the labor force in the tourism sector in light of the government’s ongoing support to the sector in response to the implications of the Corona virus crisis; in addition to the government’s incentive programs directed to workers. This came during the meeting held by the President, on 7 October, with His Excellency the Prime Minister and Minister.

The Prime Minister Visits a New Archaeological Discovery, which will be Announced Next Month

On 20 October, His Excellency the Prime Minister Dr. Mustafa Madbouly and Dr. Khaled El Enany, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, accompanied by Dr. Mustafa Waziry, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, visited the site of the discovery of new burial shafts that contain a huge number of colored coffins that were sealed for more than 2,500 years, in addition to colored and gilded wooden statues in Saqqara archeological site. This new discovery is from the excavation work of the Egyptian archaeological mission working in Saqqara. Details of this discovery will be announced next month at a press conference, after the completion of the archaeological documentation and photography works.

Dr. Mustafa Madbouly went down one of the three newly discovered burial shafts, to see first hand the new findings and the coffins that were revealed inside the shafts. Dr. Madbouly thanked the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, the Ministry’s staff, and the Supreme Council of Antiquities for the effort of the current generation of archaeologists, who have made unprecedented discoveries.

Announcement of the Discovery of 59 Sealed Wooden Coffins Inside Burial Shafts in Saqqara

Amidst wide global media coverage, the Minister announced, on 3 October, a new archaeological discovery in Saqqara archeological site. The Egyptian archaeological mission made this discovery. The announcement of this discovery was attended by around 60 foreign, Arab and African ambassadors in Egypt with their families. The mission uncovered three burial shafts 10 to 12 meters deep. In side those shafts 59 colored sealed wooden coffins were stacked on top of each other, and are in a good condition of preservation with their original colors. Initial studies have indicated that, these coffins date back to the 26th Dynasty and belong to a group of priests, senior public officials and prominent figures in society. This, in addition to dozens of statues; including a bronze statue of Nefertum. The discovered coffins will be transferred to the Grand Egyptian Museum. They will be displayed in the hall opposite to the hall that will showcase Al-Asasif’s cachette, which was discovered by the Egyptian archaeological mission in 2019 in Luxor, where about 32 closed coffins of priests and priestesses from the 22nd dynasty were uncovered.
President of Kenya visits the Pyramids

On 5 October, the President of Kenya, visited the Giza Plateau. He visited the Pyramid of Khufu, the panorama area, and the Sphinx. He was in awe of greatness of the ancient Egyptian civilization, and said that the modern achievements of the Egyptian government are an extension of this great civilization.

The French Navy Heritage Music Band Holds Performs in Egypt

The "Bagad de Lann-Bihoué" the French Navy Heritage Music Band visited Egypt from 20 to 26 October, holding its musical performances in a number of archaeological and touristic sites, including the Giza Pyramids area, Salah El-Din Citadel in Cairo, the Cairo Opera House, Bibliotheca Alexandrina Square, and the Citadel of Qaitbay in Alexandria. The Egyptian Military Symphony Orchestra participated with them in those performances.

The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology of South Sudan Visits the Religions Complex

On 20 October, the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology of South Sudan and his accompanying delegation visited the Religions Complex in Old Cairo. The South Sudanese Minister visited the remains of the Fortress of Babylon and the Hanging Church, the Coptic Museum, the Bin Ezra Synagogue, the Church of Abi Sarja, and the Mosque of Amr Ibn Al-Aas.

Sharm El Sheikh Hosts an International Beach Volleyball Championship

On 25 October, the International Beach Volleyball Championship (doubles) was concluded. The Championship was hosted by one of the touristic resorts in Sharm El Sheikh. Russia, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, the United States of America and Slovenia participated in it. Russia won first place, second place went to Slovenia and the third place went to USA.
Committees to Inspect Diving Centers and Marine Activities Centers in South Sinai

As part of Ministry's supervisory role over hotels, tourism establishments, diving and marine activities centers, the tourism activities and the local offices sector of the ministry dispatched committees, on 25 October, to monitor and inspect diving centers and marine activities centers in South Sinai Governorate. 50 diving centers and 49 marine activities centers were inspected, and 9 were given warnings to urge them to promptly finish the procedures of renewing their licenses. Moreover, a number of diving and marine activities centers operating illegally without obtaining a license from the ministry were located and the necessary measures were taken against them. On 30 October, the Minister met with members of the Chamber of Diving and Water Sports to discuss cooperation between the ministry and the chamber during the coming period.

Hosting and Visits

Visits of Egyptian Children Abroad to Several Archaeological Sites

On 5 October, the Ministry, in cooperation with the Ministry of Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs, organized a virtual visit to the Egyptian Museum for a delegation consisting of 55 children of Egyptian expatriates in New Zealand (between 8 to 12 years old). This was organized under the "Etkalem Masri" initiative launched by the Ministry of Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs to nurture the Egyptian national identity among our children abroad. In a related context, the two ministries organized, on 17 October, a visit for a delegation of young students studying abroad, and currently in Egypt, to Saqqara in Giza Governorate, where they toured the site, and visited Imhotep museum there.

The Pyramids of Giza Hosts Egyptian International Squash Open Championship

The 16 round of the Egyptian International Squash Open Platinum Championship for men and women was held at the Pyramids of Giza. Egypt hosted this championship from 10 to 17 October and it was sponsored by the Ministry and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. This championship is considered one of the eight largest platinum International Squash championships. 96 squash players from 19 different countries worldwide participated in it. The Minister, the Minister of Youth and Sports and the Minister of Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs attended the finals at the glass stadium by the Pyramids of Giza on 17 October. Two Egyptian players, Nour El-Sherbiny and Ali Farag won this championship.
The Solar alignment in the Sanctum of King Ramses II Temple

At dawn on 22 October, Visitors from around the world observed the unique biannual phenomenon (the second on 22 February) of the solar alignment in the sanctum of King Ramses II temple in Abu Simbel, with all hygiene safety measures implemented. During this solar alignment, sun rays enter the temple’s sanctum to light three of four statues; King Ramses II and the deities Amun-Re and Re-Hur-Akhty, leaving the God of Darkness Ptah in shadow symbolizing his connection to the underworld.

The Promotional Film "A Tourist's Journey in Egypt" Plays on Screens in Various Places

After it played on screens of Egyptian airports, the Ministry, in cooperation with various entities, started showing the promotional video "A Tourist's Journey in Egypt" on screens in the Egyptian railway stations in a number of governorates, in addition to commercial markets in various touristic cities like Soho Square in Sharm El-Sheikh and Zahar Square in Hurghada. It also plays at the lobby and rooms of several hotels. The film is also shown in some sports clubs and various cafes, in addition to screens in some cinemas. This comes as part of promoting the Egyptian touristic destinations and shedding light on the precautionary measures implemented in airports, hotel establishments, archeological sites and museums, to ensure the safety of tourists, citizens and workers in the tourism sector.

"Tourism Ambassadors" Program to Train Workers at Archaeological Sites

Within the framework of the Ministry's plan to raise the efficiency of those dealing with tourists in the archaeological and touristic sites, employees of the Citadel of Qaitbay in Alexandria received training within the "Tourism Ambassadors" Program. This program aims at qualifying employees and improving their communication skills in dealing with tourist. This program is sponsored by the Bank of Alexandria and implemented by Rhythm Company.

Thwarting an Attempt to Smuggle Three Artifacts

The archaeological unit at Alexandria's seaport succeeded in seizing three artifacts of porcelain and glass. They are a faience lantern with inscriptions from the nineteenth century, a faience pot in the shape of a pear from the nineteenth century, and another vessel of decorated glass dating back to the early Islamic era.

Lighting the Pyramids and the Sphinx to Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations

As part of the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations on 14 October, the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx were illuminated in blue. It is worth noting that, Egypt has a pivotal and active role as a founding member of the United Nations.
Events and Activities

The Republic of Poland Awards the Minister its Order of Merit

In a ceremony held at the garden of the Polish Embassy in Cairo, on 25 October, the Polish government awarded the Minister, and renowned Egyptologist Dr. Zahi Hawass, the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for their efforts and achievements in the field of archeology and the outstanding contributions in the cooperation between Poland and Egypt in the field of archaeology and tourism. The Polish ambassador in Cairo awarded them the Order of Merit.

The Opening of "Awladna" Forum for Arts of Children with Special Abilities

On 18 October, the Minister participated in the opening ceremony of the fourth edition of the Forum of "Awladna" for Arts of children with special abilities, which was held at the Grand Theater of the Cairo Opera House, under the patronage of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. The activities of this edition lasted for 3 days, under the slogan "Wahshtuna" "We Miss You", with the participation of 36 Arab and foreign countries, and under the auspices of the ministries of: Tourism and Antiquities, Culture, Social Solidarity, Youth and Sports, Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs and Planning and Economic Development.

Miscellaneous News

20 Thousand Visitors Visit the Exhibition "Kings of the Sun" in Prague

A month after its official opening, the temporary antiquities exhibition "Kings of the Sun" in the Czech capital Prague received 20,000 visitors, as the exhibition witnesses a strong turnout of various age groups throughout the week. The average number of visitors exceeded 1500 visitors during weekends and public holidays, during. The Minister, the Czech Prime Minister and the Czech Minister of Culture had inaugurated this exhibition on 30 August 2020, in conjunction with the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the archaeological work of the Czech mission in Abu Sir.
Meeting the Minister of Youth and Sports and the Minister of State for Information

During the month of October, the Minister met with the Minister of Youth and Sports, to discuss means of cooperation between the two ministries to promote sports tourism and how to benefit from international and local sporting events to promote tourism. In a related context, the Minister held a meeting with the Minister of State for Information to discuss developing a media strategy for promoting Egypt in all countries of the world. The meeting discussed details of this strategy and the importance of including promoting touristic and archaeological sites in a modern way in-line with international trends.

Discussing the Organizational Structure of the Ministry with the Head of the Central Authority for Organization and Administration

On 21 October, the Minister met with the head of the Central Authority for Organization and Administration to discuss many vital issues related the organizational structure of the ministry and its affiliated bodies. Several issues were discussed, the most important of which is the merging of the Ministries of Tourism and Antiquities and the new organizational structure. The Central Authority for Organization and Administration finished studying the file concerning employees with temporary contracts with the Supreme Council of Antiquities, which resulted in the amendment of the contractual form of 2,949 of them.

Visiting the Automobile and Touring Club of Egypt

On 14 October, the Minister visited the Automobile and Touring Club of Egypt, where he met with the elected board of directors to discuss a number of important issues related to the club, its activities. In addition to that they discussed the establishment of a project to make signboards for Egyptian streets around archaeological sites and museums. It was also agreed to set an agenda for events related to the activities of the club. The Automobile and Touring Club of Egypt is one of the oldest and most prominent automobile clubs in the world. It was established in 1924.

Receiving Egyptian Ambassadors to France, Uzbekistan and Cyprus

On 28 October, the Minister received three newly appointed Egyptian ambassadors to France, Uzbekistan and Cyprus, to discuss ways of enhancing cooperation between Egypt and these countries in the field of tourism and archaeology, and the using soft powers to bring nations together. During the meeting, a number of important issues were discussed; including combating illegal trade of antiquities, in addition to the possibility of concluding cooperation agreements in the field of training archaeologists and restorers and promoting the Egypt in these countries.

….And a Number of Ambassadors of Different Countries in Egypt

During the month of October, the Minister met with a number of ambassadors of different countries in Egypt. He received the Italian ambassador in Cairo to discuss strengthening the means of archaeological and touristic cooperation between the two countries, and the possibility of organizing a celebration in Aswan Governorate on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the rescuing the Philae Temple in Aswan, by the Egyptian-Italian mission as part of the campaign to save the temples of Nubia. The Minister also received a number of newly appointed ambassadors in Egypt, including the ambassador of the European Union and the ambassadors of Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Meeting the Head of the Steering Committee of the General Syndicate of Tour Guides

The Minister met with the head of Steering Committee of the General Syndicate of Tour Guides. During the meeting, the committee presented their vision to support tour guides and how to activate capabilities of the syndicate.
Discovering the Tomb of the Supervisor of the Royal Treasury in Minya

During the month of October, the Egyptian archaeological mission working in Al-Ghuraifah archaeological site at Tuna Al-Gabal in Minya Governorate, discovered the tomb of the supervisor of the royal treasury, "Pa di Eset". The tomb consists of a burial shaft 10 meters deep, leading to a large room with niches carved into the rock closed with regular-shaped stone slabs. Two limestone statues were found, in addition to some of the most beautiful canopic vessels, and 400 Oshabti statuettes of blue and green faience. Four stone sarcophagi in human form were also found. The mission also uncovered a group of amulets and scarabs in the same area inside the coffin of "Djehuty Im Hotep", the chief priest of the god Djehuty from the 26th dynasty. The excavation work continues to uncover more treasures of Al-Ghuraifah.

Global Tourism Crisis Committee Meeting via Video Conference

During the month of October, the Minister participated in a meeting of the Global Tourism Crisis Committee of the United Nations World Tourism Organization via video conference. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary-General of the UNWTO. The latest developments in the efforts to recover the tourism sector were discussed; in addition to the measures that countries, regional and international organizations must take to support this vital sector. During the meeting, the Minister invited the ministers participating in the meeting and the member states of the UNWTO to attend the Parade of the Royal Mummies from their current display in the Egyptian Museum in Al-Tahrir to their permanent display in the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Al-Fustat. The Secretary-General of the UNWTO welcomed this invitation, and urged participants in the meeting to attend this important event.

A Meeting to Discuss Cooperation between the Ministry and the Administration of Saint Catherine's Monastery

On 28 October, the Minister met the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Sinai, the head of the Monastery of Saint Catherine to discuss cooperation between the ministry and the monastery’s administration to complete the work of the monastery’s development project and raise the efficiency of its tourism services. The Ministry puts this project as a priority due to the monastery’s sanctity and its special religious, environmental and archaeological importance; in addition to it being one of UNESCO’s World’s Heritage sites.
HE the Prime Minister, visited the Grand Egyptian Museum; to follow up on the progress of work in the museum's construction, in addition to the area surrounding it, in preparation of the museum's opening next year. He was accompanied during the visit by the Minister, the Minister of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, the Governor of Giza, the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, and the General Supervisor of the Grand Egyptian Museum and the surrounding area.

**An Assistant to The Minister for Archaeological is appointed**

On 25 October, the Minister issued a ministerial decree appointing an Assistant to the Minister for Archaeological Affairs at the Grand Egyptian Museum. This decree was issued to ensure a smooth flow of work in the museum, in the upcoming period, which requires constant follow-up on all the archaeological work; in terms of transporting and maintaining antiquities and designing the museum display scenario, in addition to work related to the scientific content of the museum's website, digital services, catalogues and scientific publications.

**Following Up On The Progress of Work in the Museum's Website**

On 28 October, the Minister met with the assistant to the minister for archaeological affairs at the Grand Egyptian Museum, the assistant to the Minister for follow up on the museum's project and the company developing the museum’s communication and information technology systems. This meeting was held to follow up on the progress of work in the museum’s website in terms of its design and the scientific content, as well as the latest developments in the communication and information technology (ICT) systems.

**A Rehearsal for Moving Part of the Obelisk of King Ramses II**

On 8 October, the Grand Egyptian Museum - in cooperation with a specialized company - conducted rehearsal for the process of transferring one of the three parts of the obelisk of King Ramses II, brought from San El Hagar and located at the museum square, in preparation for its assembly and erection in its display position.
Assignments and Administrative Affairs

The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities issued three decisions to assign the general supervisor, director and deputy director of the Sharm El Sheikh Museum. Engineer Myriam Said Edward, who was holding the the director of the museum’s technical and engineering services department, was assigned to work as the general supervisor of the museum project. Mr. Mamdouh Farouk, who was the director of the Imhotep Museum in Saqqara, was assigned as the director of the Sharm El-Sheikh Museum, and Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Hassanein, who was working as a Curator at the Sharm El-Sheikh Museum, was assigned as the deputy director of the museum.

The Prime Minister Visits the Museum

On 17 October, the Prime Minister visited the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, as part of his visit of the project of developing Ain Al-Sira area in Old Cairo. During the visit, the Prime Minister was accompanied by the Minister, the Minister of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, the Governor of Cairo, and the Head of the Engineering Authority of the Armed Forces. NMEC will showcase more than 50 thousand artifacts that will tell the story of Egyptian civilizations from ancient times until the modern era on an area of 5.33 acres.

A Meeting to Discuss the Details Royal Mummies’ Parade

On 15 October, the Minister held a meeting with the representatives of the ministries of defense and interior, security authorities, the Supreme Council of Antiquities, and the company in charge of this big event to review the all parade, as 22 royal mummies, including 18 mummies of kings, and 4 mummies of queens, are to be transferred from the Egyptian Museum at Al- Tahrir to the National Museum of Civilization.

From the Museum’s Exhibits

Tombstone of a child made of colored limestone - Coptic period

Astrolabe (astronomical instrument for determining directions) Used in the Islamic era - From Yusef Kamal’s endowment
The Army of Ancient Egypt and The Eternal Struggle throughout History

Throughout history, Egyptians have always been a tolerant and peaceful people. The geography and natural resources of the country provided protection and food; This, however, never prevented Egypt from having one of the very first organized armies in history. The formation of the Egyptian army dated to the reign of the Old Kingdom; the autobiography of a noble called Weni, at Abydos, describes the large scale conscription of men from Egypt for a campaign in Palestine during the reign of the Sixth Dynasty. During the Middle Kingdom, by the reign of Senusret III, the Egyptians achieved great victories in the southern borders and established a string of fortresses with permanent garrisons, which must have seen an increase in professional soldiers and contributed to the creation of a large national army.

Then came the expulsion of the Hyksos by the Theban King Ahmose I, the founder of the Eighteenth Dynasty and the New Kingdom. In the New Kingdom, the rise of the Eighteenth Dynasty brought with it changes in the military sphere which amounted almost to a revolution. As a result of the expulsion of the Hyksos from Egypt and the determination of the pharaohs to render impossible any repetition of the foreign domination, Egypt developed into a first-class military power. By the middle of the Eighteenth Dynasty, the Egyptian warrior pharaohs had established Egypt as the major military power in the area with an empire reaching from the Euphrates River to southern Nubia.

The Egyptian army has always been and is still the protector of Egypt, and it has also been the protector of the entire Ancient Near East cultures from the destructive invasions that threatened them.

To celebrate the glorious October victory of 1973, the Egyptian archaeological museums in all governorates displayed archaeological military artifacts, which varied between tools used in war, or statues of military commanders, kings and soldiers who participated in wars throughout the different ages of the Egyptian culture. The Gayer Anderson Museum opened a temporary exhibition of antiquities entitled “Weapons through the Ages”, and the Prince Muhammad Ali Palace Museum in Manial has also organized a symposium entitled “Soft Power and its role in achieving the October victory.”

Dr. Mohamed Raafat Abbas