



Launching an Initiative to Restore Statues in Main Squares around Egypt



Statue of Nubar Pasha, Alexandria



One of the two statues of Kasr al-Nil, Cairo

In February, The Ministry launched an initiative to clean and restore archaeological and non-archaeological statues in main Squares around Egypt in cooperation with the concerned governorates.

The cleaning and maintenance work is carried out by restorers of the Supreme Council of Antiquities to showcase the beauty of these statues, as part of the state's efforts to add a cultural and aesthetic touch to the governorates' main squares.

The Minister and the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, launched this initiative on 14 February; and visited main squares of Cairo to oversee the work done on a number of statues; including the statues of the lions of Qasr al-Nil and the statue of Simon Bolivar in downtown Cairo.



Statue of Lazoughly Pasha, Cairo



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News Highlights

H.E. The President Follows up on National Projects and Activities of the Ministry



The meeting with H.E. The President

H.E. The President held a meeting, on 1 February, with The Prime Minister and the Minister, to follow up on the progress of work in national projects and activities of the Ministry. His Excellency called for continuing the efforts exerted in the projects of the tourism sectors nationwide with coordination and integration among all concerned entities. The Minister presented the State's efforts to support the tourism sector in 2020. He highlighted the work done at both the structural and institutional levels after merging the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Antiquities. Moreover, he presented the measures taken by the Ministry regarding digital transformation in cooperation with all concerned government bodies, including establishing a centralized database to register and document all antiquities and connect them electronically.

Furthermore, the Minister presented the inbound tourism flow rates to Egypt last year, in light of the repercussions of the Coronavirus pandemic. He showcased the latest initiatives launched by the Ministry to promote inbound and domestic tourism; and the current efforts exerted to develop a number of archeological sites in Greater Cairo and to retrieve the smuggled antiquities. He also showcased the archeological discoveries in various governorates – especially in Saqqara.

The Prime Minister Witnesses the Launch of the Latest Full Flight Simulator

On 16 February, The Prime Minister, accompanied by the Minister and the Minister of Civil Aviation witnessed the launch of the latest full flight simulator Airbus A320neo at Egyptair Training Academy, one of the largest accredited regional training centers in the field of air transport in the Middle East and Africa.



Inspecting the flight simulator

The Minister Attends the Plenary Session of the Parliament

On 4 February, the Minister delivered a statement in the plenary session of the Parliament, in which he presented the Ministry's efforts in implementing the government programs in the field of tourism and antiquities. He also presented the latest tourism and archaeological projects; and the development and restoration work of archaeological sites. The Minister also presented the new legislations and structure of the Ministry and its new strategy after the merger of the Ministries of Tourism and Antiquities. In a related context, the Minister attended the meeting of the Media and Antiquities Committee of the Parliament on 9 February, and the Tourism and Civil Aviation Committee of the Parliament on 28 February. The two meetings discussed achievements in the tourism and antiquities sector.

Extending the Initiative to Promote Domestic Tourism until Mid May



Upon the directives of The Prime Minister, the Ministry and the Ministry of Civil Aviation extended the initiative to support domestic tourism, which was scheduled to end 28 February, until 15 May. It was decided that airline ticket prices for Egyptians and foreigners will continue to be fixed at a flat rate, including taxes, for arrival and departure from Cairo and Alexandria to Luxor for EGP 1500 and to Aswan for EGP 1800; and from Cairo or Alexandria to Sharm El-Sheikh, Hurghada and Taba for EGP 1800, and EGP 2000 to Marsa Alam. The Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities also agreed to grant a reduction on the prices of entry tickets for Egyptians and Arabs visiting archaeological sites and museums, open for visits, to be the same as the price of entry tickets for Egyptian students, until mid-May 2021. This initiative was launched by the two Ministries under the name "Enjoy winter in Egypt" last January in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministerial Committee for Tourism and Antiquities under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

Hurghada Receives the First Flight of the German Airline Condor

In line with the continuous cooperation and coordination between the Ministry and the ministry of Civil Aviation, Hurghada International Airport received the first flight of Condor Airlines, a German charter airline, coming from Frankfurt. This flight is scheduled to be a weekly flight until mid-March, then the number of flights will increase to 3 per week.

Exemption of Rental Fees For Tenants of Bazaars and Cafeterias In Museums and Archaeological Sites

In line with the Ministry's support to the tourism sector, and its efforts to mitigate the economic impacts of the Coronavirus, the Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, in its session chaired by the Minister on 23 February, approved the extension of the complete exemption for tenants of bazaars and cafeterias in museums and archaeological sites of the Supreme Council of Antiquities from paying rent for the months of March and April 2021. The Minister also approved an extension of the exemption for tenants of shops selling handicrafts at the Shali Fortress in Siwa Oasis for a period of six months from 1 January to 30 June, 2021. Also, The Ministry has approved an extension of exemption by 65% of the rental fees for tenants of the Al-Fustat Tourist Market in Old Cairo until December 2020.

Improving Tourism Services in Museums and Archaeological Sites

In line with its plan to improve tourism service provided to visitors in museums, archaeological sites and historical palaces, the Ministry upgraded tourism services in a number of archeological sites in Fayoum and Aswan, in coordination with the governorates and sponsors from the private sector. The Ministry is also working on a project to use the basement of the Baron Empain Palace in Heliopolis as a Cultural Hub to hold workshops and art exhibitions and host cultural gatherings.

Setting the ETPB Office in Hurghada to Conduct PCR Tests for Tourists

The Ministry set up the office of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board in Hurghada, to temporarily conduct PCR tests for tourists upon arrival and other tests required upon departure according to the requirements of different countries, to reduce congestion at the airport. The Minister and the Minister of Civil Aviation and Governor of the Red Sea, visited this office on 20 February.

The Government Issues Decisions to Support the Tourism Sector

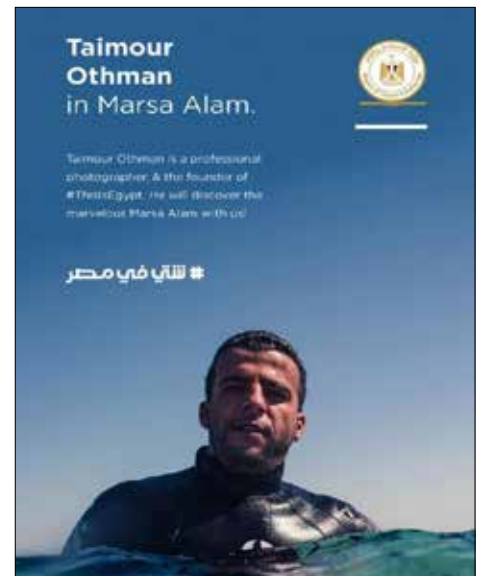
In February, the Egyptian Cabinet issued a decision for continuing to exempt real estate used in production and service activities in the tourism and hotels sector, from real estate tax until 30 April 2021. Also, the Central Bank of Egypt issued a decision to modify some of the conditions of its two initiatives to support the tourism sector with the guarantee of the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Social Solidarity began disbursing the second batch of exceptional support to about 9,000 tourist guides, registered in the Ministry, with a value of EGP1000. The Ministry of Manpower agreed to disburse two batches (the fourth and the fifth) from emergency subsidies for workers in the tourism sector. This is due to the exceptional circumstances the sector is going through as a result of the Corona virus.

Tourism Promotion

The Ministry Invites A Group of Egyptian Influencers to Promote "Enjoy Winter In Egypt" Initiative

The initiative which is launched by the Ministry and the Ministry Civil Aviation in cooperation with the Egyptian Hotel Association, succeeded so far in reviving domestic tourism, in addition to helping hotels by increasing their occupancy rates, within the capacity rate set by the Ministry.

To promote this initiative, the Ministry invited a group of Egyptian influencers to visit Luxor, Aswan, Hurghada, Marsa Alam, Sharm El Sheikh, Dahab, Nuweiba and Taba to promote them on their social media platform, which have thousands of followers.



An Egyptian influencer in Marsa Alam

Inviting Two Bloggers from the Czech Republic

The Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board, organized a fam trip to two influencers from the Czech Republic. This is a part of the Ministry's efforts to diversify its marketing tools by inviting influencers from around the world to Egypt. The two Czech influencers have a large number of followers on their social media platforms. Their program included visiting Sharm el-Sheikh and Cairo, where they visited Giza pyramids, Old Cairo, the Citadel of Salah El Din and the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir.



From the visit of the Arab influencers

... And A Group of Arab Social Media Influencers to Celebrate "Arab Tourism Day"

"Digital transformation towards safe Arab tourism", is the slogan of this year's Arab Tourism Day which is celebrated on 25 February of each year. The Arab Tourism Organization chose this slogan to highlight the use of modern technologies in all tourism and heritage sites. To celebrate this day, the Ministry invited a group of social media influencers from Egypt and various Arab countries on a tour to visit Sharm el-Sheikh and the landmarks of historic Cairo, Giza pyramids, and ancient Egypt.

Tourism Promotion

Filming A Promotional Film About The Egyptian Civilization in A Number of Archaeological Sites



On 6 February, The Minister met the Egyptian international actor Khaled El Nabawi in Saqqara archeological site. The Ministry is producing a promotional film, that will star Khaled El-Nabawi about the Egyptian civilization. It will be filmed in a number of archaeological sites, as part of its plan to promote Egypt on an arab and international scale. The aim is to showcase Egypt's diversified tourism offerings, especially cultural tourism.

Spouses of Ambassadors of 20 Countries Visit Saqqara

On 11 February, The Ministry organized a visit for the spouses of ambassadors of 20 foreign countries in Cairo to the Saqqara archeological site. The spouse of the Foreign Minister and spouses of a number of the Egyptian Foreign Minister's assistants participated in this visit. The group was received by the director of Saqqara Antiquities. They entered the Step Pyramid of Djoser and visited its pyramid group, the pyramid of Unas, the pyramid of King Tete, the tomb of Kagmani, and the Serapeum, in addition to visiting the Imhotep Museum.

The Pyramids Receive Officials and Sports Teams From A Number of Countries

During February, the Giza Pyramids received a number of officials, public figures and sports teams from a number of countries of the world. The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and his accompanying delegation, the President of the International Federation of Bodybuilding and Dennis James, the coach of the Egyptian Bodybuilding Champion "Big Ramy" all visited the the Giza Pyramids. The Vice President of the International Shooting Federation and members of the shooting teams of India and Czech participating in the ISSF World Cup Shotgun tournament hosted by Egypt from 22 February- 5 March" also visited this iconic place.



The Vice President of the IFBB



Teams of the ISSF World Cup



Dennis James

Egypt in the Spotlight

The New York Times Launches a Cultural Quiz Titled "How Much Do You Know About Egypt?"

Under the title "How much do you know about Egypt?" American newspaper The New York Times launched on its website, a quiz presented in an interesting way to ask the world about Egypt, its history, culture, ancient civilization, geographical location, beautiful cities, sunny beaches, picturesque nature, culture, customs and traditions of its people. This quiz takes people on an educational journey inside Egypt by asking a number of questions and receiving answers accompanied by pictures and information explaining the city that was chosen and its touristic, archaeological and natural attractions, in addition to the places of entertainment.



Egypt is One of the Best Tourist Destinations for The Czech Tourist

A report was published on the official website of the Czech Radio Station on the excitement of Czech citizens to travel abroad during the summer despite the pandemic, Egypt was one of the best tourist destinations they chose. According to the report, Czech travel agents said they received thousands of reservations to warmer tourist destinations, including Egypt. The report also indicated that Egypt ranks first among the Czech tourists' favorite tourist destinations.

The Guardian publishes A Report Titled "The Inselbergs Of Egypt's White Desert"

Under the title "The inselbergs of Egypt's White Desert" the Guardian published a photo report showcasing the beautiful landscapes of the White Desert in Egypt and the most prominent of which is the large rock formation known as "Mushrooms". In addition to highlighting the activities of visitors to this region.

The report mentioned the initiative "Enjoy Winter in Egypt" launched by the Ministry with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Hotel Association in January 2021 to promote domestic tourism.



Italian Newspaper: Sharm El-Sheikh is One of the Best Tourist Destination to Travel to During 2021

The Italian newspaper Comunicati Stampa published a report saying that tourism and travel agency "Astrolabe" chose Sharm el-Sheikh as one of the best tourist destinations to travel to during 2021. It indicated that the city of Sharm el-Sheikh is one of the most famous and popular destinations. The report added that spending a vacation there will make its visitors live a unique and distinctive experience, and will make them want to go back again.

Egypt is One of The Best Destinations for Travel During Coronavirus Crisis According to CNN Travel



Within their "Unlocking the World" initiative launched for its readers about the tourist destinations to travel to now during the Coronavirus crisis, CNN Travel chose Egypt as one of these destinations with a number of other countries in the world.

CNN Travel highlighted in this report, published under the title "Traveling to Egypt during Covid19-: What You Need to Know Before You Go", the strictness and seriousness of applying hygiene safety measures implemented in Egypt.

The British Telegraph Sheds Light on Egyptian Tourism in Three Reports



The British Telegraph published three reports about tourism in Egypt. One report showcased, the mask of the Boy King Tutankhamun as one of the tourist icons in the world to see during one's lifetime.

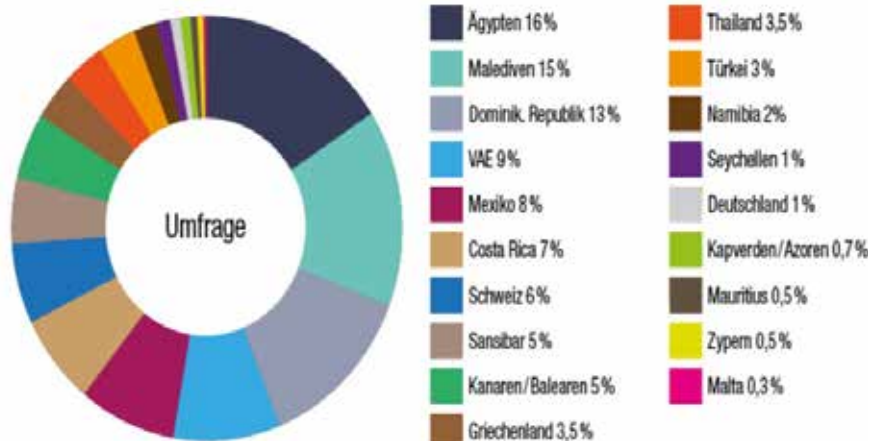
The report gave a detailed description of the mask, its design, and that it's one of the unique pieces that dazzled the world and increased the passion for the ancient Egyptian civilization.

The British Telegraph also published a report about Nile cruises in Egypt, the article described them as one of the best cruise experiences in the world. The third report, chose Egypt as one of the best destinations of 2021 after the UK's lockdown eases.

The Swiss Travel INSIDE: Egypt First in the World Among the Most Sought-after Destinations

In an opinion survey conducted by the Swiss tourism and travel magazine "Travel INSIDE", Egypt ranked first in the world among the most sought-after destinations during the current period, outperforming many other tourist destinations such as the Maldives and the Caribbean. This survey confirms the confidence of Swiss tourists in the Egypt, its geographical location, picturesque beaches and sunny weather throughout the year, especially in times when Europe is cold.

Welche drei Ziele werden aktuell am meisten gebucht?



Tours and Inaugurations

Inaugurating Two Restoration And Development Projects of the Temple of Athribis and the Hawawish Necropolis in Sohag

On 26 February, the Minister inaugurated the two projects for the restoration and development of Athribis Temple in Sheikh Hamad and the Hawawish Necropolis in Akhmim, Sohag. This comes in line with the Ministry's plan to preserve archaeological sites, open new places for visits and develop tourism services in museums and archaeological sites. The cost of the project for the restoration and development of the Temple of Athribis was EGP5.50 million, and the cost of the project for the restoration and development of the Al Hawawish Necropolis was EGP9 million. These projects, completed in nearly two



The Temple of Athribis

years, were carried out in cooperation with Sohag governorate, represented by the Local Development Project for the Development of Upper Egypt. The two projects are financed by the World Bank. On the occasion of the inauguration, Egyptians were given free entry until the end of March 2021.

A Tour in Luxor and Sohag

As a part of their plan to visit Egyptian governorates to evaluate the "Enjoy Winter in Egypt" initiative, the Minister and the Minister of Civil Aviation, visited Luxor and Sohag Governorates from 27-25 February. The Ministers visited Luxor International Airport and Luxor Temple. In Luxor Temple, they met a number of Egyptians who praised the initiative. They visited the tourist market, and met a number of bazaar owners and workers; listened to their problems, demands and challenges they face. They also met with a number of members of the Parliament and the Senate in the two Governorates.



The Minister with Bazaar owners in Luxor

The Minister visited the tourist marina of the Ministry in Luxor, to oversee the progress of work there. He held a meeting with tourism

investors in Luxor to discuss the mechanisms of supporting cultural tourism, revitalizing the internal tourism movement and listened to their demands and suggestions to support the tourism sector. During their visit to Upper Egypt, the Minister and the Minister of Civil Aviation, participated in the opening of the "Shifa El-Orman" Children's Hospital for Cancer in Upper Egypt, in Luxor, which is part of the initiative "Hayah Karima" launched under the auspices of H.E. the President.

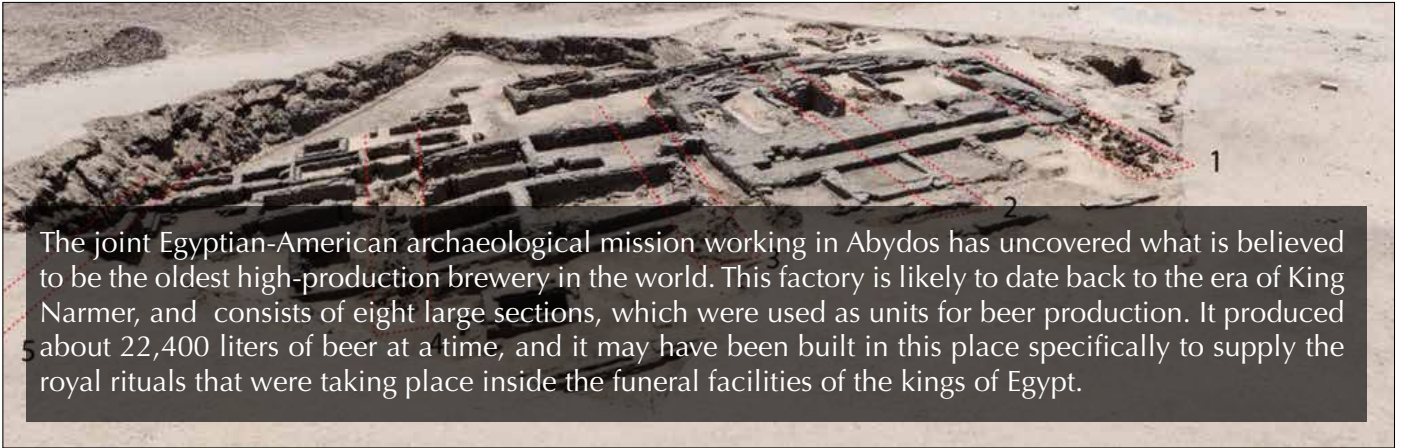
Visiting Hurghada and Marsa Alam

The Minister, and the Minister of Civil Aviation visited Hurghada and Marsa Alam from 21-20 February. They visited Hurghada International Airport, met a tourist group from the Czech Republic who praised the precautionary measures in the airport and hotels.

They also met with a number of investors and members of the Parliament in Hurghada and held a meeting with tourism investors of Marsa Alam. The minister visited a number of hotels to follow up on the commitment of hotels to set hygiene safety regulations. He also met with a number of tourists from the Czech Republic, Switzerland and Poland who said that Egypt is a safe country, praising the precautionary measures and hygiene safety regulations that they have seen on ground.

Archaeological Discoveries

Discovery of what is Believed to be the Oldest Brewery in Abydos



The joint Egyptian-American archaeological mission working in Abydos has uncovered what is believed to be the oldest high-production brewery in the world. This factory is likely to date back to the era of King Narmer, and consists of eight large sections, which were used as units for beer production. It produced about 22,400 liters of beer at a time, and it may have been built in this place specifically to supply the royal rituals that were taking place inside the funeral facilities of the kings of Egypt.

CT Scans of the Mummy of King Seqenenre-Taa-II

A research published on 17 February in the scientific Journal "Frontiers in Medicine" about examining the mummy of King Seqenenre-Taa II by Computed tomography (CT scan) done by Dr. Zahi Hawass, the renowned archaeologist and former Minister of Antiquities, and Dr. Sahar Saleem, professor of radiology at the Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University.

This presented a new interpretation of the events before and after the death of King Seqenenre. The deformed hands indicate that Seqenenre may have been captured on the battlefield, and his hands were tied behind his back, preventing him from deflecting the fierce attack from his face. CT scan of Seqenenre mummy revealed details of the head injuries, including wounds that had not been discovered in previous examinations and had been skillfully hidden by embalmers.

Miscellaneous News

"Kings of The Sun" Exhibition in Prague to Continue Until 30 June

The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, signed an agreement to extend the exhibition "Kings of the Sun" which is currently held at the National Museum in the Czech capital Prague, to continue until 30 June, 2021. This exhibition was inaugurated by the Minister, the Czech Prime Minister and the Czech Minister of Culture last August.

Organizing A Trip for Students with Special Needs to Aswan

The Ministry represented by the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board office in Sohag, organized an awareness trip for a group of 24 students with special needs for two days to Aswan, in coordination with the Educational Administration, the Integration Department, in Sohag. This trip comes as a part of the "Know Your Country" initiative, launched last December to raise tourism and archaeological awareness and stimulate domestic tourism.

Free Entry for Medical Staff to Museums and Archaeological Sites in 2021

In appreciation of their great role during the Coronavirus pandemic, the board of directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities agreed to grant free entry to medical staff and their families to all Museums And Archaeological Sites, open for visits in 2021.

The Ministry Participates in Dyarna Exhibition 2021

For the first time, the Ministry participated in the Handicrafts exhibition «Diyarna 2021», which is organized by the Ministry of Social Solidarity and held from 15 to 25 February. The Ministry displayed the archaeological replicas produced by the new replicas factory, Kunooz, scheduled to open soon, in addition to various handicrafts, traditional products and publications of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

Restoring "Sabil" of Rokaia Dodu and Prince Sheikho in Al-Hataba

As part of the project launched by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to restore and save 100 archaeological buildings in Historic Cairo, the restoration and development of "Sabil" of Rokaia Dodu on Souk El-Selah Street was completed according to the artistic and archaeological old maps and documents. In a related context the Supreme Council of Antiquities started the restoration of the sabil of Prince Sheikho in Al-Hattaba.

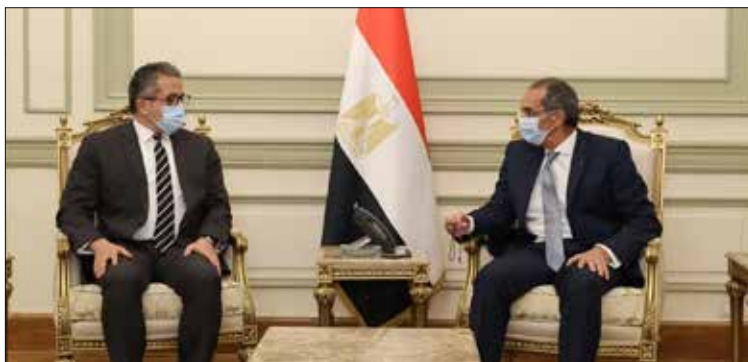
Meetings

Meeting the Head of the Tourism and Aviation Committee in the Parliament

The Minister, met on 13 February with the head of the Tourism and Civil Aviation Committee in the Parliament, and the President of the Egyptian Tourism Federation, to discuss mechanisms to support the tourism sector in light of the repercussions of the Coronavirus. During the meeting, they discussed implementing the decisions taken by the Egyptian Cabinet to support the sector.

Discussing Digital Transformation of the Ministry

The Minister and the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, met to discuss digital transformation within the Ministry as part of the cooperation protocol signed between the two ministries last November. The meeting discussed a number of topics including the progress in the integration and development of IT portals for services and promotion of the ministry, in addition to developing a mobile application to provide services for tourists.



Part of the meeting

Raising Tourism and Archaeological Awareness among School Students

The Minister, met the Minister of Education and Technical Education on 22 February to discuss a number of cooperation projects between the two ministries, especially increasing tourism and archaeological awareness and enhancing tourism ethics among school students. The meeting discussed motivating students to learn more about the tourism and antiquities, including incorporating knowledge and awareness material within the curricula of primary education, like how to deal with tourists. In addition to organizing trips for school students to various touristic governorates.

Launching A Campaign to Raise Tourism and Archaeological Awareness among Egyptians

The Board of Directors of the Tourism Fund in its meeting on 16 February chaired by the Minister approved the cost of the program to reactivate the Tourism Satellites Accounts unit within the cooperation protocol with the ministry of Planning and Economic Development. Work within the unit will be coordinated by specialized experts from both ministries in addition to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics. The unit aims to provide tourism statistics in an accurate and regular manner in order to be able to identify the real contribution of tourism to the national economy. The Board also approved the launch of an awareness campaign to raise the tourism and archaeological awareness among Egyptians and promote domestic tourism. This campaign will be funded by the ministry represented by the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board and the National Bank of Egypt.

Meeting the Promotion and the Internal Events Committees

The Minister held a meeting on 7 February with members of the Promotion and External Exhibitions and the internal events Committees, to discuss the plan to revitalize international and domestic tourism and highlight the Egypt's unique tourism offerings. They discussed organizing trips for school and university students to various touristic governorates. In addition to devising programs to raise tourism and archaeological awareness among all segments of society. In addition to discussing marketing proposals for promoting tourism to Egypt in the main markets exporting tourism.

Meetings with Ambassadors of Japan, Spain, and the Philippines

In February, the Minister met with Ambassadors of Japan, Spain, and the Philippines in Cairo, to discuss strengthening means of cooperation between Egypt and these countries in the field of tourism and antiquities. During the meeting with the Spanish ambassador, they discussed the importance of coordinating efforts to resume international tourism especially from EU countries to Egypt. During the meeting with the ambassador of the Philippines in Cairo, they talked about the progress of the project to revive the path of the Holy Family in Egypt. In the meeting with the ambassador of Japan, they discussed the progress of work at the Grand Egyptian Museum.

From The Museum's Exhibits

Meeting of The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Museum, headed by the Minister, was held on 15 February and discussed several issues regarding the progress of work in the museum and its website. They also discussed the possibility of adding the Museum to the sites in the Cairo Pass after its opening. This pass allows its holder to visit several museums and archaeological sites in Cairo and Giza for 5 consecutive days for a fixed price.

"Tabataba" scene to be transferred to NMEC

After the completion of the engineering studies and the approval of the Permanent Committee for Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Antiquities, the Supreme Council of Antiquities began work on dismantling and moving "Al Tabataba" archaeological scene from its current location on the eastern side of Ain Al-Sira, to the opposite side next to the Museum to protect it from water leakage inside and show its archaeological and artistic value.



A limestone Steala from Abydos



The Grand Egyptian Museum

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Museum

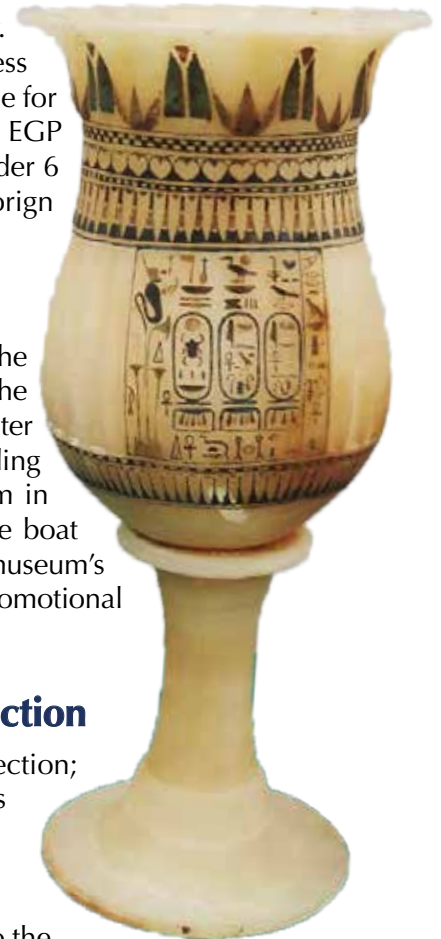
The Board of Directors of the Museum chaired by the Minister met on 2 February. During the meeting many important topics were discussed regarding the progress of work in the museum and its website. The board agreed on setting a special price for entry tickets to Khufu Boat museum inside the GEM; EGP 20 for Egyptians and EGP 140 for foreigners with a 50% discount for students and free entry to children under 6 years. They also agreed to grant a free entry to one companion of Egyptian and foreign visitors with special needs.

Meetings to Discuss the Progress of Work at the GEM

During the month of February, the Minister held a number of meetings with the General Supervisor of the Grand Egyptian Museum and the surrounding area, the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, and the Assistant Minister for Archaeological Affairs at the Museum to discuss a number of subjects including the processes of transferring artifacts and the Khufu boat (currently in its museum in the Giza Plateau) to the museum. It is worth mentioning that some parts of the boat have been dismantled and packaged in preparation for transporting them to the museum's conservation center. The Minister also met with the company in charge of the promotional campaign for the opening of the GEM.

The museum receives artifacts from the Tutankhamun collection

During February, the museum received artifacts from the King Tutankhamun collection; including three symbolic wooden boats, the trumpet, the sword and the lotus head and the unique collection of Alabaster, as well as the folding bed, which is considered the first of its kind in the world. The Museum also received 61 artifacts; including a set of knives from the prehistoric era, an offering table from the Middle Kingdom, a group of funerary plates made of limestone dating back to the New Kingdom, and a group of glassware from the Late Period.



From the Alabaster collection

Solar Alignment on Sanctuary of King Ramses II Temple in Abu Simbel

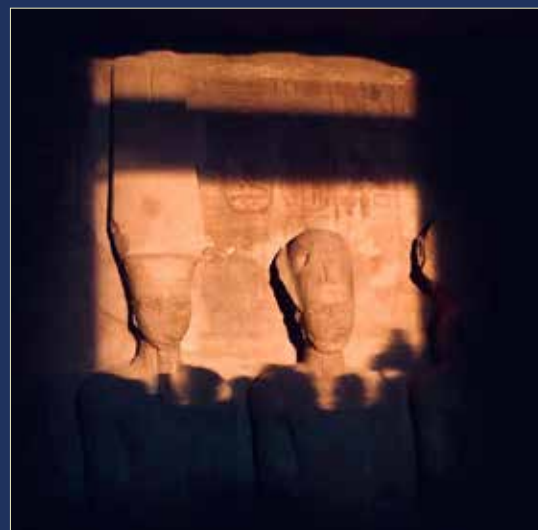
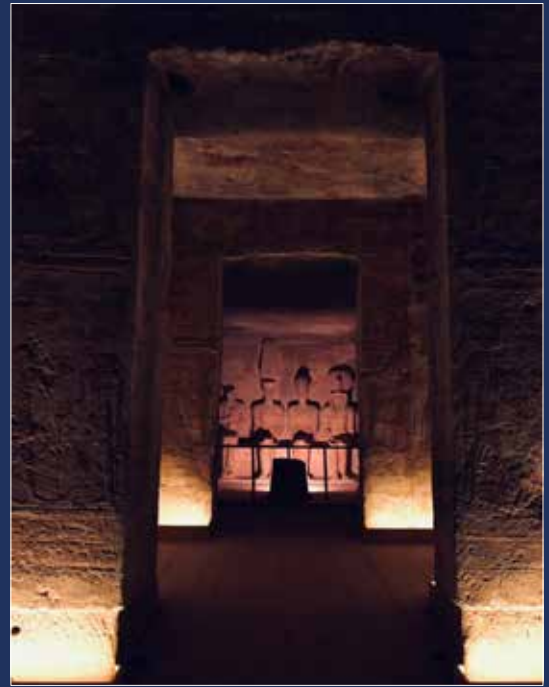
At dawn on the 22 of February and the 22 of October every year, visitors from around the world line up to observe the unique biannual phenomenon of the solar alignment in King Ramses II Temple in Abu Simbel.

During the solar alignment, sun rays enter the temple's inner sanctuary to light three of four statues. The three statues belong to King Ramses II and the deities Amun-Re and Re-Hur-Akhty, leaving the God of Darkness Ptah in shadow to symbolise his connection to the underworld.

This phenomenon attracts the world's attention, as the sun's rays infiltrate the temple, to reach temple's sanctuary, which is about sixty meters away from the entrance.

The solar alignment was discovered in 1874, when the British writer Amelia Edwards and her travelling companions observed it and she recorded it in a book published in 1899 under the title "A Thousand Miles Up the Nile".

Before 1964, this unique phenomenon took place on 21 February and 21 October. However, with the construction of the Aswan High Dam the temple was disassembled and



moved from its original location, carved into the side of the mountain, in order to save it from the rising waters of the lake, and transferred to its current site. In the new location, the phenomenon now occurs on 22 February and 22 October.

The Ministry celebrates this phenomenon every year. This February, the Ministry posted a virtual tour of the temple of Ramses II in Abu Simbel and released short animated films for children about Abu Simbel temples, and posted them on the Ministry's Facebook page.

In addition to that and to present Egypt's ancient wonders to the world, under the auspices of The Ministry, an international live performance was held in front of Ramses II in Abu Simbel and livestreamed to the whole world on the social media platforms of the Ministry and those of the French media company organizing the event.

Ahmed Masoud - Chief Inspector of Abu Simble



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