

Egypt unveils may be the oldest and “most complete” mummy

January 28, 2023

In news—Egyptian archaeologists have uncovered a Pharaonic tomb near the capital, Cairo, containing what may be the oldest and “most complete” mummy yet to be discovered in the country.

Key findings-

- According to the archaeologists, the **mummy that was discovered may be the oldest and most complete mummy found in Egypt to date.**
- The mummy is **believed to have belonged to a man named Hekashepes.** It was **covered in layers of gold, and concealed within a large limestone** sarcophagus that had been sealed for 4,300 years, just as the ancient Egyptians left it.
- Archaeologists also said they had discovered **four tombs at the vast burial site.**
- The finds **date from the fifth and sixth dynasties,** which correspond to the 25th to the 22nd centuries B.C.
- The largest **tomb uncovered by scientists is believed to have belonged to a priest inspector and supervisor of nobles named Khnumdjedef.**
- **Found in the pyramid complex of Unas, the last king of the fifth dynasty,** the tomb is decorated with scenes of daily life.
- Another discovered tomb belonged to a man identified as the pharaoh’s **“secret keeper.”** This refers to a priestly title which senior palace officials held.
- The priestly title of “secret keeper” was held by a senior palace official bestowing the power and authority to perform special religious rituals.

- The **third tomb belonged to a priest, while the fourth was of a judge and writer named Fetek.**
- Fetek's tomb included a collection of "the largest statues" ever found in the area.
- Numerous statues were found among the tombs, including one representing a man and his wife and several servants.