

World's oldest family tree created using DNA

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In news- Recently, scientists have compiled the world's oldest family tree from human bones interred **at a 5,700-year-old tomb in the Cotswolds, UK.**

More information-

- Analysis of DNA from the tomb's occupants revealed **the people buried there were from five continuous generations of one extended family.**
- Most of those found in the tomb were descended from four women who all **had children with the same man.**
- But people were **buried in different parts of the tomb based on the first-generation matriarch** they were descended from.



- This suggests that the first-generation women held a socially significant place in the memories of this community.
- **The Neolithic tomb, or “cairn”, at Hazleton North in Gloucestershire has two L-shaped chambers, one facing north and the other south.**
- Some Children are kept in the south chamber and some in the north chamber which shows how **kinship operated at those tombs.**
- There are also indications that **“stepsons”** were adopted

into the family.

- **The tomb dates to an important period just after farming was introduced to Britain** by people whose ancestors had, several thousand years earlier spread through Europe from Anatolia (modern Turkey) and the Aegean.
- While the **tomb reveals evidence of polygyny** – men having children with multiple women – it also shows that **polyandry** was also widespread- women having children with multiple men.
- The work will help researchers understand family dynamics among these Stone Age people and learn more about their culture.