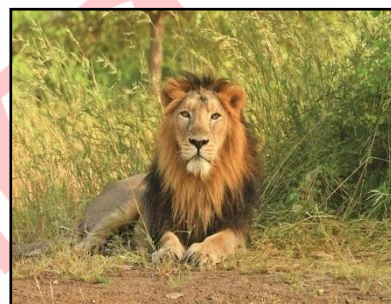


About Lion:

- The lion is also known as **Panthera Leo** and is considered the **king of the jungle**, being the largest species on earth.
- The lion is a vulnerable species on the IUCN Red List.
- The **5 biggest cats** are found mostly in India, including the Royal Bengal Tiger, Indian leopard, Clouded Leopard, and Snow leopard.
- **India** is also **recorded** as the **highest lion** population with an **increase of 29 percent** from **2015** to **2020**.

About Asiatic Lion:

- They are **slightly smaller** than **African lions**.
- The most **striking morphological character**, which is always seen in Asiatic lions, and rarely in **African lions**, is a longitudinal fold of skin running along its belly.
- Asian lions used to range from **Turkey, across Asia, to eastern India**, but the **rise of firearms** across the world meant that they were **hunted** to **near-extinction for sport**.
- **IUCN Red List : Endangered (EN)** **WLP Act, 1972: Schedule I** **CITES: Appendix I**
- There are **five protected areas** that **currently exist** to protect the **Asian lion** i.e. Gir Sanctuary, Gir NP and Pania Sanctuary to form the Gir Conservation Area (GCA).
- The **other two** wildlife sanctuaries, **Mitiyala** and **Girnar**, protect satellite areas within dispersal distance of the **Gir Conservation Area**.



CAVE LION

Recently, the scientists have said that an **astonishingly** well-preserved **cave lion cub** found in **Siberia's permafrost** lived 28,000 years ago and may even still have traces of its mother's milk in it.

About Cave Lion

- It is a lion known from remains found in **European and English caves** and believed to be an **extinct variety** of the existing lion.

