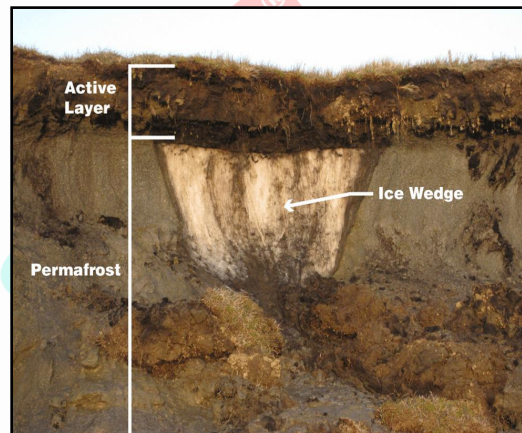


- It is **Panthera spelaea**, also known as the **Eurasian cave lion**, **European cave lion** or **steppe lion**.
- It is an **extinct Panthera species** that most likely evolved in Europe after the **third Cromerian interglacial stage**.
- **Felis spelaea** was the scientific name used by **Georg August Goldfuss in 1810** for a fossil lion skull that was excavated in a cave in southern Germany.
- The **carvings and cave paintings of cave lions**, which were discovered in the Lascaux and Chauvet Caves in France, were dated to 15,000 to 17,000 years old.

WHAT IS PERMAFROST?

- Permafrost is a **permanently frozen layer** below Earth's surface.
- It consists of **soil, gravel, and sand**, usually bound together by ice.
- It usually **remains at or below 0°C (32°F)** for at least two years.
- It is found in areas where **temperatures rarely rise above freezing** which implies that it is often found in **Arctic regions** such as Greenland, the **U.S. state of Alaska**, **Russia**, **China**, and **Eastern Europe**.



ASHWAGANDHA (WITHANIA SOMNIFERA)/ INDIAN WINTER CHERRY

- The **Ministry of Ayush** has **collaborated** with the **U.K.'s London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)** to conduct a study on '**Ashwagandha**' for promoting recovery from **COVID-19**.
- It is a **traditional Indian herb** that boosts energy, reduces stress and makes the immune system stronger.
- All India Institute of Ayurveda (**AIIA**), an **autonomous** body under the **Ministry of Ayush**, and the **LSHTM** recently signed a MoU to conduct clinical trials of '**Ashwagandha**' on 2,000 participants.

