Bridal-Veil Bamboo Mushroom

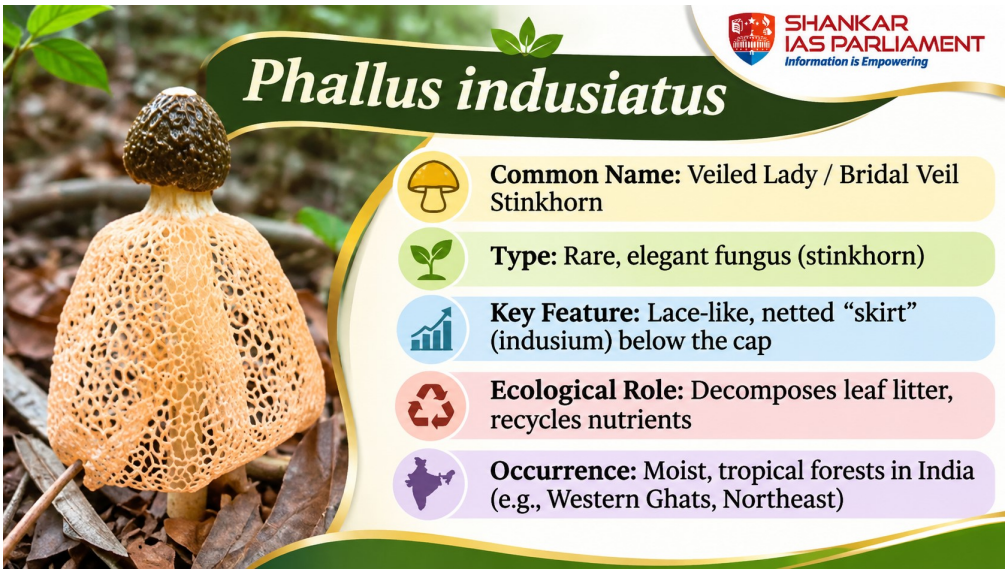
Prelims: *Current events of National and International Importance| Environment*

Why in News?

A bridal-veil bamboo mushroom (Phallus indusiatus) was spotted on the woodland floor at Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary near Srirangapatna, Karnataka.

Phallus indusiatus

- **Common Names–** Bridal-veil bamboo mushroom, veiled lady, or bamboo pith.
- **Appearance–** Features a dark cap, a white stalk/hollow shaft, and a delicate lace-like net skirt called an *indusium*.
- It can grow up to 25 cm tall and emits a distinctive odor.
- **Ecology & Safety –** A saprobic stinkhorn fungus (family Phallaceae) that grows on dead bamboo, decaying leaves, and moist, shaded organic matter, dispersing spores via insects.
- While cultivated specimens are used in Asian cuisines, officials caution against eating wild mushrooms without expert identification.



Reference

[The Hindu| Bridal-Veil Bamboo Mushroom]



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