Ambubachi Mela

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently, the annual ambubachi mela festival has been inaugurated.

- **Ambubachi Mela** – It marks the annual menstruation period of Goddess Kamakhya.
- It is regarded as a powerful symbol of fertility, creation, and womanhood in the Shakti tradition.
- **Celebrated in** – **Kamakhya Temple**, Guwahati, Assam.
- **Temple Closure** – The temple doors remain strictly closed for 3 days as the goddess is believed to be in her period of purification and divine energy replenishment.
- **Reopening** – On the fourth day, the temple reopens to thousands of waiting pilgrims.
- **Unique Prasad** – Consisting of small, moist pieces of red cloth that are believed to be soaked in the goddess's menstrual fluid

Kamakhya Temple

- **Situated on – Nilachala (Blue Hill).**
- **Constructed period** – The present structure was rebuilt in *1565 CE* using the remains of an earlier stone temple dating to the *11th–12th centuries CE.*
- **Temple style** – Blend of the *Nagara (North Indian)* style and the *Saracenic (Mughal)* style.
- This fusion gave rise to a distinct architectural form known as the *Nilachala Style*, which later became a prominent temple-building tradition in Assam through royal patronage.



- **Layout of the Temple –** It consists of 5 main chambers:
  - **Garbhagriha** (Sanctuary)
  - **Antarala** (Vestibule)
  - **Jagamohan** (Main Hall)
  - **Bhogmandir** (Ritual Hall)
  - **Natmandir** (Dance and Music Hall)

Reference

NDTV| Ambubachi mela

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