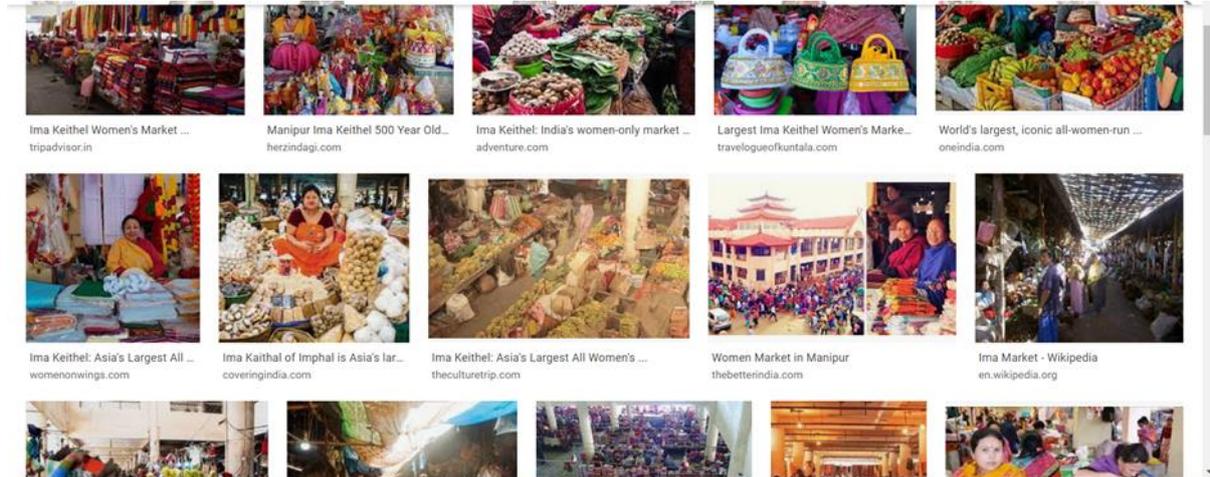


# GOVERNMENT GIRLS' COLLEGE, BETULE

## EBSE ACTIVITY

JUNE-2021



Ima Keithel (mother's market), also known as Ima Market or Nupi Keithel (women's market) is a market run exclusively by women in Imphal, India. It is a commercial centre and a popular tourist attraction in the state of Manipur. It has shifted its location within the city of Imphal over the years and is currently located in Khawairaband Bazaar. It was established in the 16th century and hosts around 5,000–6,000 women vendors who sell a variety of products. Products such as vegetables, fruits, textiles, toys fish, spices and utensils are available in the market. It is the largest all–women market in Asia. The market was established in the 16th century following the imposition of the labour

system, lallup-kaba in 1533 CE. The lallup-kaba was a forced labour system in Manipur which required male members of the meitei community to work in distant lands or to serve in the army. As a consequence of the system, women had to support their households by cultivating their fields or weaving textiles and then selling the products on improvised markets. The improvised markets led to the formation of the organized Ima Keithel. The Ima Keithel was the primary permanent market in Manipur until the 20th century.

In 1891, the British colonial administration attempted to impose economic and political reform in Manipur which disrupted the functioning of the market. The reforms involved large scale seizure and export of food corps from Manipur without consideration for local requirements which caused starvation at times of Mautam. It led to agitations by the women of the Ima Keithel and in response, the British attempted to sell off the assets and properties of Ima Keithel to foreigners and external buyers. This among other causes resulted in the Nupi Lan or the women's war, which eventually seized with the Japanese invasion of India.