

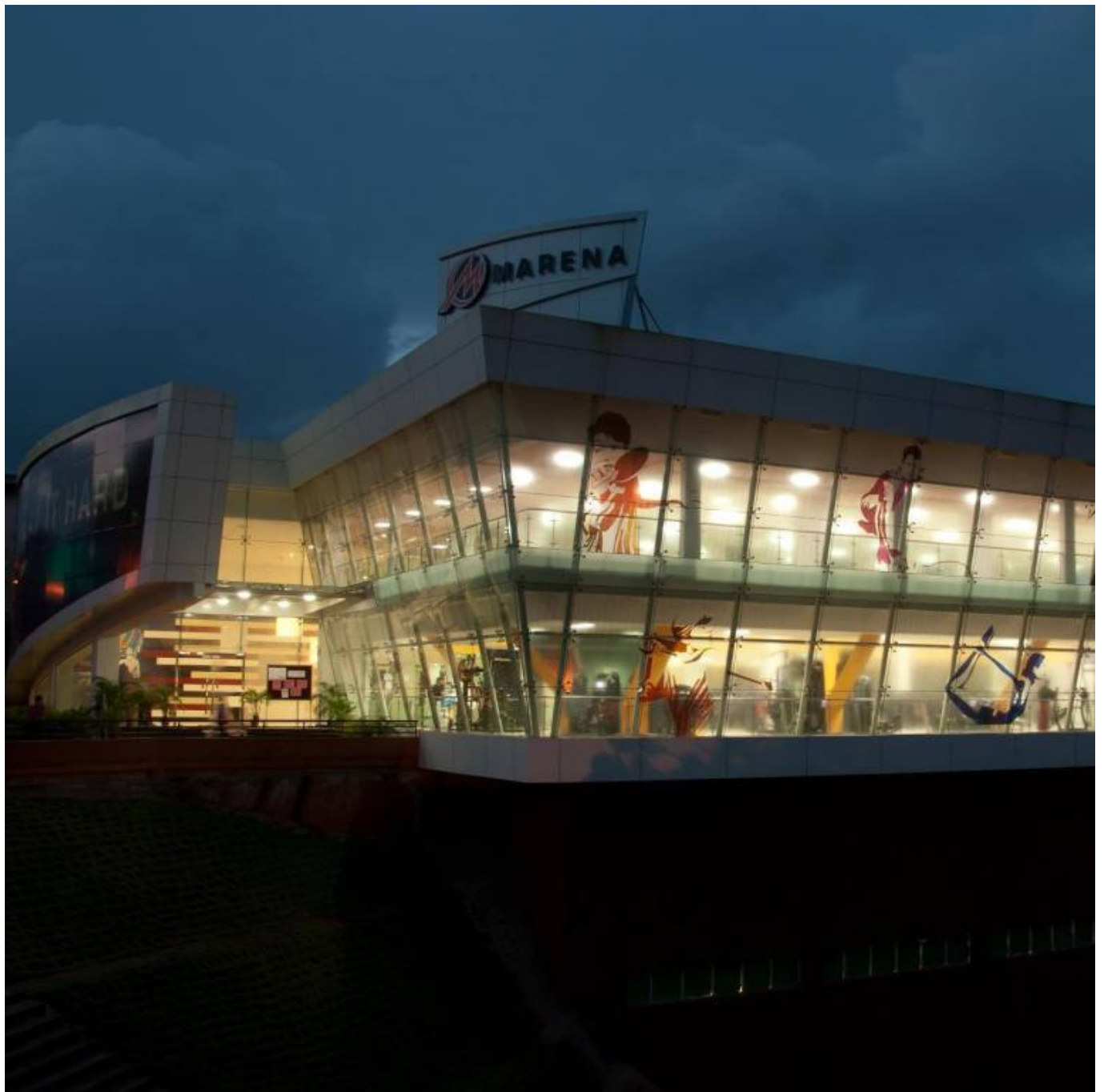
Manipal Institute of Technology–The Sports Chapter

If you have any questions, head over to the [official Freshers' Group 2021](#) on Facebook to have them answered!

Engineering is one of the most coveted streams in the world, and as such, one's life tends to seem like all work and no play. However, Manipal Academy of Higher Education has no dearth of stress-busting facilities for its student populace. And what better way to beat stress than with sports? For all the sports fanatics out there, Manipal is one of those places you shall instantly fall in love with. The authorities of MAHE make many provisions for a variety of sports and multiple grounds for a few of them. Owing to the pandemic, they even enforced stringent social-distancing protocol to ensure a risk-free athletic environment. Here is a comprehensive list of the sports facilities that are available to a MITian.

Marena

Located within 500 metres of the campus, this state-of-the-art sports complex, built at the cost of fifty crores, is one of the largest and best-equipped in the country.



The ground floor houses the gymnasium, with around two hundred pieces of equipment and trainers at hand to help you make the most of them. Marena also has squash, badminton, basketball, and table tennis courts, a Futsal arena, a 200-metre jogging track, a swimming pool, a sauna, cricket nets with bowling machines, and various simulation games under its roof. The fact that, except for the tennis courts, it's all indoor in one air-conditioned building means that neither the six-month-long monsoon nor the summer heat can hamper your sporting activities. In light of the pandemic, it was closed for public

use in 2020 while the implementation of meticulous measures for the optimization of the facilities is underway. This may also inhibit the use of some of the facilities.

In 2021, the Marena sports complex was converted into a vaccination centre with medical personnel from KMC Manipal administering jabs to the students, faculty and the local population. It is yet to be fully opened for use.

The Table Tennis tables and the jogging track can be used for free, with the only requirement being a combo card or admission orders and non-marking shoes. The other facilities require membership. The membership fee is 2,400 rupees per month for all facilities and 2,000 per month for all facilities except the swimming pool. Making use of just the swimming pool and gymnasium would require 3,000 rupees per year and 1,750 rupees per month respectively. You can also opt to pay 15,000 rupees for a full year's membership, which will end up being cheaper in the long run. Members also get access to locker rooms and saunas. Marena is open from 5:30 am to noon and from 4 pm to 9:30 pm on all days except Sundays and university holidays.

MIT Grounds

Located right in front of the ninth and tenth block, it is divided into three separate grounds, one each for football, hockey, and cricket. An athletic track borders the cricket ground, with practice nets nestled in the corners. There are also courts for volleyball and throwball, and sports like shot-put and long jump also take place here.



Credits: Neeraj Thapa

Basketball Courts

With 3 courts inside the campus, MIT spurs on basketball enthusiasts with its facilities. The newly installed courts are located opposite the thirteenth block, complete with bleachers and floodlights, and is open to all.



The court right in front of the Department of Commerce (near the ninth block) building is also open to all, whereas the court inside the 12th block hostel compounds is open only to girls.

Boxing Arena

Located on the first floor of Annapoorna Mess, 'BAMIT'—the Boxing Arena of Manipal Institute of Technology was recently inducted into the university's numerous sporting arenas.



End Point

While it is comparatively farther from the campus than the other grounds, End Point more than makes up for the distance with its well-maintained football and cricket grounds. This is where the inter-MU tournaments are held. End Point also has a beautiful park, and the stunning view makes it a good place to go to for a jog or a casual walk.



MIT Swimming Pool

At three hundred rupees for six months, this pool is a bargain you do not want to miss out on. The timings for boys and girls are different, which gives one a maximum of forty-five minutes of pool-time a day. It is well-maintained and quite large but tends to be crowded most of the time.

Recreation Centre

Located next to the MIT ground, the Recreation Centre houses three badminton and two tennis courts. This is also the place to go to for any queries regarding sporting events on campus. If the walk to Marena is too much for you, you can try out the gym opposite the RC. While it cannot compare to Marena, you can save a little money by opting for this instead. Due to the pandemic situation, revised timings have been released for the operation of the gym and badminton court:-

Morning: 5:30 to 7:30 am

Evening: 4.30 – 8.00 pm

Everyone is only allowed to join in either one of these timings. You can avail of the facilities on Saturdays (except for the 3rd Saturday).



Gyms in Campus

Certain hostel blocks also have their own gyms and training rooms. For instance, the 18th block has a mini-gym within its ramparts. While it doesn't give full-fledged gymnasiums a run for their money, it is perfect for a rain-curtailed morning or evening. The Department of Physical Education of MIT has set up a well-equipped gym in the D block. Membership here costs 300 rupees and covers the entirety of your four-year stay at MIT. There are, however, no trainers available here. Almost every hostel has its own table tennis room as well. Block 13 is also equipped with a compact gym that is adequately stocked, while blocks 22 and 21 have minimally equipped gyms.

Manipal Academy of Higher Education has certainly not compromised when it comes to sporting facilities. While there is room for improvement, the authorities are doing their best to make sure that everything is top-notch. At the end of the day, the positives outweigh the negatives by quite a margin. College life may be worrisome and stressful, but MIT's administration ensures that sports and exercise are things you don't need to worry about. If you haven't brought along all the required equipment, you can head down to the Sports House located in the cricket field and use your combo card to borrow what you need.