

MS Dhoni to retire? Trending hashtag worries fans

#DhoniRetires became one of the top-trending hashtags on Twitter on Tuesday as fans started talking about the former captain's achievements and his impending retirement.

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MS Dhoni took a break from cricket after India's exit from the 2019 World Cup semi-finals in England (Reuters Photo)

HIGHLIGHTS

- #DhoniRetires was one of the top trends on Twitter Tuesday morning
- Dhoni's retirement or his future plans as an India cricketer is still not clear
- The World Cup semi-final vs New Zealand was the last time Dhoni was seen on a cricket field this year

ndian cricket fans on social media went in panic mode early on Tuesday morning as #DhoniRetires started to trend on Twitter despite there being no news on MS Dhoni's retirement or his future plans as an India cricketer.

Fans started discussing about Dhoni's achievements and records as a batsman and wicketkeeper with some even asking him to carry on playing for the country. Worried that he might announce his retirement soon, some fans even started tweeting with #NeverRetireDhoni and #ThankYouDhoni.

Rumours about the 38-year-old's retirement have been doing the rounds ever since he took a break from cricket after India's exit from the 2019 World Cup in England. The semi-final against New Zealand, which India lost and crashed out of the tournament as a result, was the last time Dhoni was seen on a cricket field.

He has since trained with his regiment in the Territorial Indian Army, made a handful of public appearances and also recently met with Virat Kohli's team after India's victory over South Africa in the Ranchi Test.

Relax guys. Don't worry about #DhoniRetires, you will never be able to predict that, one day when you are unaware he will stump you out.

Vikram Sathaye (@vikramsathaye) October 29, 2019

#DhoniRetires he should play for another 20 years, let him bat like test matches in T20 and ODI, his experience is required. He once said I want young blood in my team during ganguly time and he did exactly that by dropping senior players. Now his turn but not ready to leave why?

Raj (@iam_raj_rrp) October 29, 2019

Stop trending #DhoniRetires you idiots. He will announce it in his time and we don't want him to retire right now pic.twitter.com/pjRfgChrzL

Freakazoid_Monster (@FreakazoidMons1) October 29, 2019

There is not an iota of truth on #DhoniRetires news. he is such a lively person that if at all he decides to retire he will go in a CHAMPION's way after making the announcement himself.

Totlani Krishan (@kktotlani) October 29, 2019

#DhoniRetires I didn't know he is retiring today. Love this man pic.twitter.com/8pMDk83dkC

(@_firefliesx) October 29, 2019

To all the people who spreading this fake news #DhoniRetires pic.twitter.com/IDF1Yc7nGX

Jayesh (@jayeshvk16) October 29, 2019

I actually cried when Sachin announced retirement. If you are a true Dhoni fan upload your crying video. #DhoniRetires #ThankYouDhoni

Dr. Maithun (@Being_Humor) October 28, 2019

The bigwigs in Indian cricket meanwhile, have maintained that the decision lies with Dhoni and he has earned the right to retire whenever he wants.

Sourav Ganguly recently addressed the issue after taking charge as BCCI president, saying that Dhoni is one of the greats of the game and he will be respected under his tenure.

"It depends on him. I have always said when I was left out and the entire world said 'I will never make it.' I came

back and played for 4 years. Champions don't finish very quickly. I don't know what's in his mind or what he thinks about his career. But we will deal with that," Ganguly said.

India head coach Ravi Shastri meanwhile, slammed the Dhoni critics who are making statements about his future. Shastri pointed out that Dhoni timed his retirement in Tests perfectly and that he has earned the right to do it in his own way when it comes to the limited-overs formats of the game.

"Half the guys commenting on can't even tie their shoelaces. Look at what he's achieved for the country. Why are people in a hurry to see him off? Maybe, they don't find enough talking points. He and everybody who knows him know he'll be going away soon. So, let it happen when it has to," Ravi Shastri told The Times of India.

BCCI chief selector MSK Prasad however, made it clear that they are moving on and looking at options beyond Dhoni, keeping in mind the T20 World Cup next year.

"We are moving on we are very clear. Post World Cup we have been clear. We started backing (Rishabh) Pant and wanted to see him do well. He may not have had the best of matches but we are clear, we are focusing on him only," Prasad told reporters after announcing India's T20I squad for the Bangladesh series, which Dhon won't be a part of.

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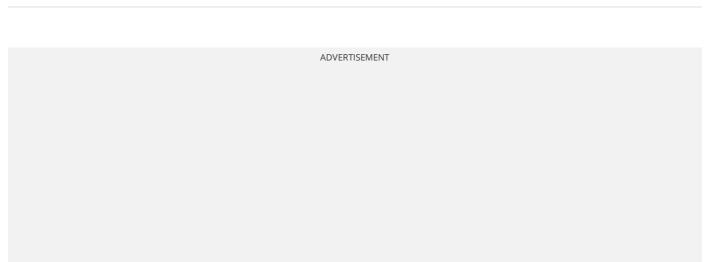
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