**Mahendra Singh Dhoni** (born July 7, 1981) is a former Indian cricketer and captain, renowned for his calm demeanor and exceptional finishing skills. He played as a right-handed wicket-keeper-batsman and is widely regarded as one of the greatest captains and wicket-keeper-batsmen in the history of cricket.

**Early Life and Career:** Dhoni was born in Ranchi, Bihar (now in Jharkhand), and initially excelled in football and badminton before turning to cricket. He made his debut in the Bihar cricket team in the 1999-2000 season and later played for the Jharkhand cricket team.

**International Career:** Dhoni made his ODI debut for India in December 2004 against Bangladesh and his Test debut in December 2005 against Sri Lanka. He quickly gained recognition for his aggressive batting style and wicket-keeping skills.

**Captaincy:** Dhoni was appointed captain of the Indian T20I team in 2007 and led India to victory in the inaugural ICC T20 World Cup. He became the ODI captain later that year and the Test captain in 2008. Under his leadership, India won the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup, the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy, and reached the top of the ICC Test rankings for the first time.

**Indian Premier League (IPL):** Dhoni has been the captain of the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) since the inception of the IPL in 2008. He led CSK to multiple IPL titles and Champions League T20 titles, making the team one of the most successful franchises in the league.

**Awards and Honors:** Dhoni has received numerous awards, including the ICC ODI Player of the Year award in 2008 and 2009, the Padma Shri in 2009, the Padma Bhushan in 2018, and the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award in 2007-2008. He was also named in the ICC World ODI XI and ICC World Test XI multiple times.

**Retirement:** Dhoni retired from Test cricket in December 2014 and stepped down as captain of the limited-overs formats in January 2017. He continued to play as a wicket-keeper-batsman until his retirement from international cricket on August 15, 2020.

**Legacy:** Dhoni is celebrated for his leadership qualities, strategic acumen, and ability to remain calm under pressure. His contributions to Indian cricket have left a lasting legacy, inspiring countless young cricketers.