

**Mahendra Singh Dhoni** ([ma'he:n̬d̬rə 'singh 'dho:n̬i]; born 7 July 1981) is an Indian professional [cricketer](#) who plays as a right-handed [batter](#) and a [wicket-keeper](#). Widely regarded as one of the most prolific wicket-keeper batsmen and [captains](#), he represented the [Indian cricket team](#) and was the captain of the side in [limited overs](#) formats from 2007 to 2017 and in [test cricket](#) from 2008 to 2014. Dhoni has captained the most international matches and is the most successful Indian captain. He has led India to victory in the [2007 ICC World Twenty20](#), the [2011 Cricket World Cup](#), and the [2013 ICC Champions Trophy](#), being the only captain to win three different limited overs ICC tournaments. He also led the teams that won the [Asia Cup](#) in [2010](#) and [2016](#), and he was a member of the title winning squad in [2018](#).

Born in [Ranchi](#), Dhoni made his [first class](#) debut for [Bihar](#) in 1999. He made his debut for the Indian cricket team on 23 December 2004 in an [ODI](#) against [Bangladesh](#) and played his first test a year later against [Sri Lanka](#). In 2007, he became the captain of the ODI side before taking over in all formats by 2008. Dhoni retired from test cricket in 2014 but continued playing in limited overs cricket till 2019. He has scored 17,266 runs in [international cricket](#) including 10,000 plus runs at an [average](#) of more than 50 in ODIs.

In the [Indian Premier League](#) (IPL), Dhoni plays for [Chennai Super Kings](#) (CSK), leading them to the final on ten occasions and winning it five times ([2010](#), [2011](#), [2018](#), [2021](#) and [2023](#)) jointly sharing this title with [Rohit Sharma](#). He has also led CSK to two [Champions League T20](#) titles in [2010](#) and [2014](#). Dhoni is among the few batsmen to have scored more than five thousand runs in the IPL, as well as being the first [wicket-keeper](#) to do so.

In 2008, Dhoni was awarded India's highest sport honour [Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award](#) by [Government of India](#). He received the fourth highest civilian award [Padma Shri](#) in 2009 and third highest civilian award [Padma Bhushan](#) in 2018. Dhoni holds an [honorary rank](#) of [Lieutenant colonel](#) in the [Parachute Regiment](#) of the [Indian Territorial Army](#) which was presented to him by the [Indian Army](#) in 2011. In June 2025, he was inducted into [ICC Cricket Hall of Fame](#).