

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (/məˈheɪndrə ˈsɪn dhəːniː/[ⓘ]; 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](#), [2016](#) and 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](#)). He has also led CSK to two [Champions League T20](#) titles in [2010](#) and [2014](#). Dhoni is amongst 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 honor [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. He is one of the most popular cricketers in the world.

Dhoni was acquired by [Chennai Super Kings](#) (CSK) for US\$1.5 million during the [auction](#) for the [inaugural season](#) of the [Indian Premier League](#) (IPL). He was the most expensive signing in the auction.^[124] Dhoni scored 414 runs to lead CSK to the finals in the first season of IPL.^[125] Under his captaincy, CSK won the [2010 edition](#) and qualified for [Champions League Twenty20](#).^[126] Chennai won the [2010 Champions league](#).^[127] Dhoni scored 392 runs and led CSK to its second consecutive IPL title in [2011](#).^[128] Dhoni led CSK to its second Champions League Twenty20 title in [2014](#).^[129] Dhoni scored 2987 runs from 129 matches in the IPL across the first eight seasons for the Super Kings.^[125]

Following the two-year suspension of Chennai Super Kings and [Rajasthan Royals](#), two new franchises [Rising Pune Supergiants](#) and [Gujarat Lions](#) were established for the [2016 Indian Premier League](#) season. Supergiants picked Dhoni as one of their five [draft](#) picks on 15 December 2015 for ₹125 million (US\$1.5 million).^[130] He scored 574 runs in 30 matches across two seasons for the Supergiants.^[125]

Dhoni [returned](#) to CSK for the [2018 season](#).^[131] He scored 455 runs and led his team to its third IPL title.^[132] Dhoni led CSK to the title again in [2021](#) and was retained for ₹12 crore (US\$1.4 million) before the [auction](#) for the 2022 season.^[133] Dhoni stepped down from captaincy ahead of that season and [Ravindra Jadeja](#) was appointed the new captain.^{[134][135]} However, a month later, Jadeja handed over the captaincy back to Dhoni in the middle of the season.^[136] Dhoni led the franchise to victory again the [following season](#).^[128] Under his captaincy, CSK became the most successful IPL franchise with five title wins and ten final appearances.^[137] Dhoni became the first player to play 200 T20 matches for CSK and holds the record for most appearances in the IPL.^[138] Ahead of the [2024 season](#), Dhoni handed over captaincy to [Ruturaj Gaikwad](#).^[139] He marked his 250th appearance for CSK in this season, in a league stage match against [Mumbai Indians](#) on 14 April 2024, helping his team secure a 20-run win, following his unbeaten four-ball 20.^[140]