MS Dhoni retires from IPL; CSK Team Mentor from 2027 season

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News

Former Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (45) has retired from the IPL as a player; on 17 November 2026 CSK announced on social media that he takes charge as the franchise's Team Mentor from the 2027 season. The announcement came on the deadline for submitting retained and released players for IPL 2027. He did not play a single match in the 2026 season because of calf and thumb injuries. Playing for CSK since 2008, he led the team to five IPL titles – 2010, 2011, 2018, 2021 and 2023. He scored 5,439 runs in 278 IPL matches (strike rate 137.45). He had retired from international cricket on 15 August 2020.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Announced	17 Nov 2026 – by CSK (IPL 2027 retention deadline)
New role	CSK Team Mentor – from the 2027 season
Born	7 July 1981, Ranchi (Jharkhand)
IPL record	278 matches, 5,439 runs
CSK titles (as captain)	2010, 2011, 2018, 2021, 2023
ICC titles (as captain)	T20 World Cup 2007, ODI World Cup 2011, Champions Trophy 2013

Point	Details
Awards	Khel Ratna (2007–08), Padma Shri (2009), Padma Bhushan (2018)
Other honours	Hon. Lt Colonel, Territorial Army (2011); ICC Hall of Fame (2025)
International retirement	15 August 2020

Background

- IPL history: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) launched the Indian Premier League (IPL), a franchise-based T20 league, in 2008. CSK bought Dhoni at the very first auction and made him captain. The inaugural 2008 edition was won by Rajasthan Royals under Shane Warne. After the 2013 spot-fixing case CSK was suspended for the 2016 and 2017 seasons; Dhoni then played for Rising Pune Supergiant.
- International record: The first ICC World T20 in South Africa (2007), the 2011 ODI World Cup won against Sri Lanka at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium (sealed with a six) and the 2013 Champions Trophy – Dhoni is the only captain to win all three ICC white-ball trophies. Under him India first became the No. 1 Test side in 2009.
- Jharkhand – geography and polity: Dhoni's hometown is Ranchi. Jharkhand was carved out of southern Bihar on 15 November 2000 (Birsa Munda's birth anniversary) under the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000. Lying on the Chota Nagpur Plateau, rich in coal and iron ore, it is often called India's mineral store-house.
- Awards and the Army: He received the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna for 2007–08 (renamed 'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna' in 2021), the Padma Shri in 2009 and the Padma Bhushan in 2018. In 2011 he was made an honorary Lieutenant Colonel in a Parachute Regiment battalion of the Territorial Army, and served 15 days with it in Kashmir in 2019. He was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame in 2025.

Tamil Nadu link: CSK's home ground is the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium at Chepauk, Chennai, named after M.A. Chidambaram, BCCI President in 1960–63. CSK owner N. Srinivasan said he had insisted in 2008 that Dhoni be part of CSK. Fans call him 'Thala'; former Chief Minister M.K. Stalin called him Tamil Nadu's beloved 'adopted son' and said he wished there had been 'one last chance' to give him the farewell he deserved.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Announced: 17 Nov 2026 – by CSK (IPL 2027 retention deadline); New role: CSK Team Mentor – from the 2027 season; Born: 7 July 1981, Ranchi (Jharkhand); IPL record: 278 matches, 5,439 runs.

What is the background to this news?

IPL history: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) launched the Indian Premier League (IPL), a franchise-based T20 league, in 2008.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Ranchi, Jharkhand's capital and Dhoni's hometown, lies on which plateau?

A) Malwa

B) Deccan

C) Meghalaya

D) Chota Nagpur

Answer: D – Explanation: Chota Nagpur Plateau – rich in coal, iron ore and mica; Hundru Falls on the Subarnarekha is near Ranchi.

2. In 2011 Dhoni was given the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in which body?

A) Territorial Army

B) NCC

C) Indian Air Force

D) BSF

Answer: A – Explanation: Territorial Army (a Parachute Regiment battalion) – a volunteer second-line force; he served 15 days with it in Kashmir in 2019.

3. The first ICC World T20 (2007), won by India under Dhoni, was held in which country?

A) England

B) South Africa

C) West Indies

D) Sri Lanka

Answer: B – Explanation: South Africa – India beat Pakistan in the Johannesburg final. India won again in 2024 (Rohit Sharma) and in 2026 (beat New Zealand in the final on 8 March 2026) – three titles in all.

4. At which stadium did Dhoni hit the winning six in the 2011 ODI World Cup final?

A) Wankhede, Mumbai

B) Eden Gardens, Kolkata

C) Chinnaswamy, Bengaluru

D) Arun Jaitley, Delhi

Answer: A – Explanation: Wankhede, Mumbai – India beat Sri Lanka; India's second ODI World Cup after Kapil Dev's 1983 win.

5. Chennai's Chepauk ground, CSK's home, bears the name of M.A. Chidambaram. Who was he?

A) Madras Premier

B) Mayor of Madras

C) Former BCCI President

D) India Test captain

Answer: C – Explanation: M.A. Chidambaram – BCCI President 1960–63 and a Tamil Nadu cricket administrator. Chepauk hosted its first Test in 1934.

Sources: ESPNcricinfo (17 Nov 2026, 'MS Dhoni ends IPL career, joins CSK as mentor') – cricinfo.com/story/ms-dhoni-ends-ipl-career-joins-chennai-super-kings-as-mentor-1562938; PTI / The Hindu (17 Nov 2026); The Free Press Journal (17 Nov 2026, M.K.

Stalin's tribute); ICC (Hall of Fame 2025); PIB (Padma awards 2009, 2018; Khel Ratna); Ministry of Defence / PIB (Territorial Army 2011, 2019); All India Radio – newsonair.gov.in (T20 World Cup final, 8 Mar 2026); Jharkhand Government – jharkhand.gov.in. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.