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CSC Center
STAR RAINBOW SERVICES
VADAPALANI
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Dr Praveena E 9944 100443

Dhoni ends IPL playing career as CSK appoints him team mentor



CHENNAI – 18 Nov, 2026 It is a day that fans of Chennai Super Kings and the wider cricket-watching public had been dreading. On the deadline day for the IPL 2027 retentions, Mahendra Singh Dhoni retired from the league and, with it, brought the curtain down on his career as an active player on Tuesday (November 17).

From next year, Dhoni will take over the role of Team Mentor for the five-time champion. It brings to an end a journey that began in 2008, when he became the costliest buy at the inaugural IPL player auction, when CSK shelled out $1.5 million. Apart from guiding the team to five IPL titles and two Champions League T20 crowns, he is also the second-highest run-scorer for the Super Kings, with 5,314 runs, and the franchise's most-capped player, with 272 appearances.

For the last few years, there has been constant speculation about when he will eventually call it quits, and in recent times, it has become increasingly clear that it is imminent.

Despite retiring from international cricket in 2020, Dhoni continued to play in the IPL and has led CSK to two titles since then, in 2021 and 2023.