



Officials revealed a statue of soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo in Goa, India, where soccer is hugely popular. Officials hope to inspire youth and motivate players to **excel** in soccer.

Cristiano Ronaldo, who currently plays for Manchester United, is adored by many fans and widely regarded as one of the best players in the history of the game. He has seen several statues made in his honor over the years. In 2014, the Portuguese **forward** unveiled a statue of himself outside the CR7 museum in his hometown of Funchal, Madeira, and in 2017, Madeira renamed its airport after him. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner has also had various waxworks **made in his image** in Madrid, London and Thailand.

However, Goa is a former Portuguese colony, and some people feel it's disrespectful to show the statue during the 60th anniversary celebrations of Goa finally winning freedom from Portuguese rule. Critics say that local football players should have been honored, especially since several past and present members of India's national team are Goan.

Difficult words: **excel** (to be exceptionally good at an activity or subject), **forward** (an attacking player in football, hockey or other sports), **made in his image** (when an artist makes a work of art to look like a person).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *excel, forward and made in his image*
2. In which team is Cristiano Ronaldo currently playing for?
3. Why is Cristiano Ronaldo very famous in the world?
4. Why did officials in Goa, India make a statue of Cristiano Ronaldo in their state?
5. Why were some Goan people not happy about the statue?
6. What did critics think Goan officials should have done instead?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Is soccer a popular sport in your country? Are you a fan of this sport?
2. Does your town/city have a national soccer team? Does your country compete in international soccer games?
3. Are there soccer players in your country that are currently playing for international teams?
In which team/s?
4. If you were from Goa, India, how would you feel about the statue of the Portuguese soccer star knowing that your country was once a colony of Portugal?