# Cristiano Ronaldo retires from international football – 146 goals in 234 matches for Portugal

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## News

Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo (41) announced his retirement from international football in an Instagram video on Thursday, 5 Nov 2026. Having debuted against Kazakhstan in August 2003, he scored 146 goals in 234 matches over 23 years – Portugal's most-capped player and all-time top scorer. He played at six European Championships. At the 2026 World Cup Portugal lost to Spain in the Round of 16. He will continue to play club football for Al Nassr of Saudi Arabia.

## Key facts

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| **Announcement** | 5 Nov 2026 – Instagram video; age 41 |
| **Record** | 234 caps, 146 goals – men's world records for most international goals and appearances |
| **Debut** | August 2003, v Kazakhstan |
| **Titles** | Euro 2016 (captain); UEFA Nations League 2019, 2025 |
| **2026 World Cup** | Lost to Spain in the Round of 16 |
| **Club** | Al Nassr (Saudi Arabia) – will continue |

## Background

- Records: in September 2021, against Ireland, he broke Iran's Ali Daei's men's record of 109 international goals. In June 2023 he became the first male player to reach 200 international caps (Guinness World Record).
- Euro 2016: in the final in France (Saint-Denis), Portugal beat France 1–0 through Eder's extra-time goal – Portugal's first major international trophy. At Euro 2004, at home, they had lost the final to Greece.
- Ronaldo: born on 5 Feb 1985 at Funchal on the island of Madeira. He played for Sporting Lisbon, Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus; a five-time Ballon d'Or winner.
- Bodies: FIFA was founded in Paris in 1904; HQ Zurich (Switzerland). UEFA (European football's governing body) – HQ Nyon (Switzerland). In India, football is governed by the AIFF.

**Tamil Nadu link:** there is no direct Tamil Nadu link. A historical Portugal–Tamil Nadu link: the San Thome Basilica in Mylapore, Chennai, was built by the Portuguese in the 16th century over the tomb of St Thomas; the British rebuilt it in Neo-Gothic style in 1893.


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