

INDIAN GAMES IN SWISS MUSEUM

Ambassador Sibi George with Dr. Ulrich Schädler, Director of Swiss Museum of Games at La Tour-de-Peilz in the Swiss Alps Canton of Vaud at Lake Geneva. The Museum houses rare collections of Games which trace their origins to ancient India. [Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India](#) [Ministry of Culture, Government of India](#) [Indian Council for Cultural Relations](#)





Two Indian games conquer the world

Guess which board game Pachisi is the ancestor of? Ludo in Great Britain, Hâte-toi lentement or Eile mit Weile in Switzerland, Mensch ärgere Dich nicht in Germany, Jeu de dada in France and Parcheesi in the USA. In the middle of the 19th century the English introduced this traditional Indian game to Europe.

Pachisi or Chaupad is still very popular in India, where it is often part of the bridal trousseau. Typically for India, it is played with cowries or rectangular 4-sided dice, without the numbers 3 and 4.

Snakes and Ladders, introduced by the English to the West in the 19th century, originates from the Indian game Nagapasa. This game had a religious significance as it symbolizes the moral itinerary of man through life in order to reach Heaven. Good deeds shorten the path (ladders) whereas bad or vicious behaviour (snakes) makes one fall back. Today the game has lost its religious aspect.