

## **Abstract**

This diploma thesis describes the expansion of the Czechoslovak Bata shoe company to India. A foundation stone of Batanagar, Bat'a's city, was laid near Calcutta on October 28, 1934. Since then, the community of Czechoslovak expatriates evolved to an almost self-sufficient city known throughout Bengal and India. Because the majority of employees were Indians, there was a lively cultural contact between them and the Czech expatriates.

The main part of the thesis focuses on the description of the common life of the Czechoslovakians in Batanagar – Bat'a's employees sent from Zlín during the period from 1934 to 1950. In India, many Czechoslovakian children grew up in this international environment, because women or the extended family of Czechoslovakian men later followed them here. New couples also celebrated their weddings in Batanagar. Due to the outbreak of World War II, Bat'a's employees did not return home for many years, and from India they organized their own resistance activities.