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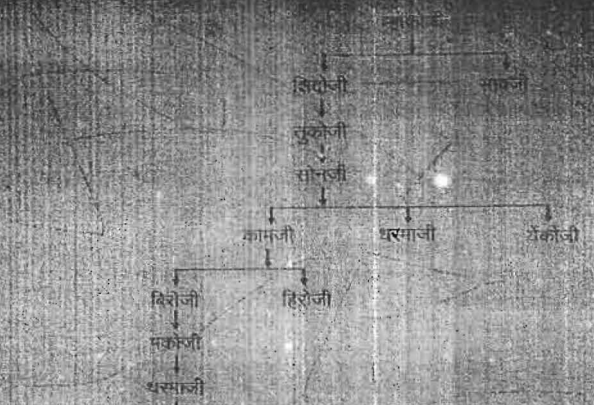
इतिहास विभाग आयोजित

राज्यस्तरीय चर्चासत्र

“वंशावळीच्या आधारे सामान्यांचा इतिहास”

(२९ व ३० जानेवारी २०१६)

शोधनिबंधसंग्रह



संपादक
डॉ. सोपान शेंडे

Bidri Artisan – Mohammad Rashid Quadri

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Introduction:

A number of traditions of crafts based on metals, alloys, gems and stones flourished in ancient India. Many of these traditions started in ancient India and continue vigorously even in modern India. One such craft is Bidriware. Bidriware is a flourishing Handicraft of Bidar, North Karnataka. The craft of Bidriware was introduced in Bidar by a Persian artisan Abdulla-bin-Kaiser, who was among a group of skilled workers brought from Iran by Sultan Ahmed Shah Wali Bahamani in the 15th century. Abdulla's expertise in this exquisite craft impressed the Sultan to such an extent that he arranged for the training of local craftsmen in Bidriware handicraft in the Mahmud Gawan Madarsa.¹⁰

Bidar district is the home of the Bidriware industry and the very name Bidar is derived from Bidar. The Bidri articles are well known from their artistic elegance and beauty in India and abroad. This craft was introduced in Bidar during the rule of Bahmanis.¹¹

Origin:

In its original Persian avatar, Bidri work involved the inlaying of gold or silver on a steel or copper base. The present method envisages an alloy of zinc and copper as the base metal. Artisans sketch intricate floral and geometric designs on the matt black surface using a sharp metal stylus. This special type of encrusted metal-ware was used to embellish various objects, including platters, paan boxes, goblets, hookahs and trays.

Unique feature:

A unique aspect of the Bidriware craft is the soil used to ornament the art objects. This soil, which has not received rain or sunlight for centuries, is collected by artisans from the inner areas of the Bidar fort. The soil contains ingredients that give a lustrous black colour to Bidriware. The paucity of raw materials impedes the mass production of Bidriware artifacts. The intricate nature of the Bidriware craft demands pains taking efforts from the artists. Bidri craft is metal work where objects are cast from an alloy in which zinc predominates with small amounts of lead as well as copper and tin. The traditional artifacts made are the hookahs, goblets, vases, caskets, jewellery and various other decorative accessories.¹²

Material and Process;

¹⁰ G.Yazdani, Bidar, Its History and Monuments, Motilal Banarasidas, Delhi, 1995, pp.91-100.

¹¹ See for detail Hasoon Khan Sherwani, The Bahmanis of the Deccan, Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Ltd, New Delhi, 1985, pp.34-52.

¹² Handicrafts Bidriware of Bidar Karnataka, The office of the development commissioner, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, New Delhi, p.5

The main basic materials required in this industry are zinc, copper, silver and particular type of earth. The other subsidiary raw materials needed are lead, tin, copper, sulphate, ammonium, chloride, wax, ground oil, castor oil, resin etc.¹³ The process of production may be divided into four main stages viz, casting, engraving, inlaying and oxidizing.¹⁴ The Bidriware is solid. It does not dent or break unless struck with great force. It does not rust either. The entire process of manufacture of Bidriware is carried on with great expertise and celerity by different sections of the people.¹⁵

Marketing:

In order to suit the modern tastes, to promote the sale of articles, new designs are being introduced. The Bidri articles are marketed locally and also sent to big cities like Bangalore, Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Hyderabad through the Karnataka Handicrafts Development Corporation and also through wholesale dealers. They are also exported to foreign countries.¹⁶ Bidri articles are also exported to 93 countries of the world like America, Italy, Singapore, England, Australia, France, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Brazil, Austria, Germany, Greece, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Russia, Venezuela, Java, Burma etc. List of the countries where Bidri articles are exported are as follows:¹⁷ (figures related to March 1995 to April 1992).

Historical Background of Sufism and Qadri :

The emergence of Sufism in Arab and Persia led to the creation of a unique consciousness in the medieval world. Though Sufism emerged as a social protest against the emergence of the Kingship in the Islamic world, it spread as an important social movement as well. Sufism as a social movement entered India during the last decade of the 12th century.

All these derivatives have been beautifully summed up in a following manner: "Sufism teaches how to purify one's self, improve one's morals and build up one's inner and outer life in order to attain perpetual bliss. Its subject matter is the purification of the soul and its end or aim is the attainment of eternal felicity and blessedness."¹⁸

Sufism in India:

The advent of Sufis to India dates back to the Arab conquest of Sind. After the establishment of the Muslim rule in Northern India, the Sufis from the Muslim countries of Central Asia began to migrate to this country in large numbers, obviously to reap the harvest of military conquest by gaining converts to Islam from among the

¹³ See for detail, Bidar District Gazetteer, Government Press Bangalore, 1977, pp.186-188.

¹⁴ For detail, Sujit Narayan Sen, Catalogue on Damascene And Bidri Art in the Indian Museum, Indian Museum, Calcutta, 1983, pp.8-10.

¹⁵ Ibid, p.11.

¹⁶ Bidar District Gazetteer, op. cit, p.188.

¹⁷ M.M.Boralkar, Vishwa Prasiddha Bidrikale, Kannadanadu Lekhakara Mattu Odugara Sahakara Sangha Niyamita, Gulbarga, 2011, p95.

¹⁸ J.L.Mehta, Medieval Indian Society and Culture, Sterling publisher, Delhi, 2006, p.199.

vanquished. They moved about in the robes and styled of Indian Sadhus and established their hermitages at a number of places. They set up their abode in the residential quarters or colonies of the low castes on the periphery of the Hindu towns. The first object was to win their love and confidence and reconcile them to alien rule. They persuaded them to embrace Islam on merit. The Sultanate of Delhi was confined to only a part of India for most of the time but the Sufis spread themselves throughout the country and carries on peaceful propagation of Islam.¹⁹

Sufi Sects in India:

The period from 1200 to 1500 A.D. is considered as the period of permeation of Sufi thought in India. During that period, a number of new sects and movements were started which formed a midway between Hinduism and Islam. Abul Fazl mentions 14 Orders of Silsilahs of the Sufis in India. Of those Orders the Chisti, the Shrawadi, the Naqushabandi, the Qudiri, Qalandaria and the Shusttari Orders were important.

The Qadri Order:

The Qadiri order was established Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (1077-1166 A.D). of Baghdad. The other significant saints of this branch of Sufism were Shaikh Abdur, Shaikh Musa and Shaikh Abdul Qadiri. The eldest son of Shah Jahan, Dara Shikoh , was also the follower of Qadiri branch of Sufism.²⁰The followers of this order were opposed to music and singing. They wore green turbans.

Shah Rasheed Ahmed Quadri

Introduction:

Shah Rasheed Ahmed Quadri belongs to Quadri order of Sufi sect in India. In early they preach the religious thoughts to people. In later 14th century the Bahamanis allowed Jagir to them. Bahmanis also patronage the Bidri crafts. So in further Quadri family involved in Bidri craft.

Brief Life Sketch:

Shah Rasheed Ahmed Quadri was born on 5th July 1955 at Bidar in Karnataka State. He completed his SSLC in 1970 and PUC in 1979. His father name was Shah Mustafa Quadri. And mothers name Sadat Unnisa Begum. Hailing from respectable well known family engaged with Bidri Craft since their forefather period. To earn bread for his family he forced to involve in this craft and to support his father who was the only earning member in his family. He learned this craft since childhood period. Father himself was the teacher who has trained under the supervision and guidance. Skillness of craft learned from father only. After a prolonged training from family elders, started working independently since 1970 and introduced various, new self designed patterns, played vital role to develop the craft with own venture and hard efforts. He had four sons and two daughters. All are educated, but no one involved in Bidri craft.

¹⁹ Ibid, p.200.

²⁰ R.C.Majumdar, The Delhi Sulanate, Bombay, 1980, p.419.

Awards:

He was honoured with awards for outstanding performance in the Bidri craft:

1. State Award of 1984
2. National Award of 1988
3. Dist .Karnataka Rajya Utsav Award of 1996
4. Great Indian Achievers Award of 2004.
5. Suwarana Karnataka Rajya Utsav Award of 2006.
6. Shilpa Guru Award 2012.

Country Visited:

He visited many countries for participation and exhibitions at National and International level

- Boston (U.S.A.) –“A Science Festival of India” at Museum of Science, Boston in 1987.
- Rome (Italy) “India Promotion Programme” through Trade Development Authority. New Delhi at “ La Rennanscente” Departmental Stores, Rome in 1989.
- Singapore -Participated in live demonstration sponsored by “Singapore-Indian Chamber of Commerce” at SCOTTS MALL, SINGAPORE on the occasion of 25th Anniversary celebration 1990 of “ Indian Cultural Month”in 1990.
- Holland(Neitherland) participated in live demonstration sponsored by tourism Department, India Embassy (Holland) and Air-India, at BIJENKORF Departmental Stores of AMSTERDAM, ROTERDAM, DENHAUQUE, UTRICHTE,Cities of Holland. On the occasion of “India Promotion” at Holand in 1992.
- Barcelona (Spain)-Participated in live Demonstration sponsored by Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) Ministry of Textiles, Government of India New Delhi. Organized by the Asian heritage Foundation New Delhi, invited by the Universal Forum of Cultures, Barcelona Spain in 2004.
- Kingdom of Bahrain-participated in live demonstration sponsored by Indian Ladies Association of Bahrain, Embassy of India and the Bahrain, Embassy of India and the Bahrain Ministry of Social development. On the occasion of Golden Jubilee Year of India Ladies Association of Bahrain, at Craft village Bahrain in 2006.
- Muscat (Sultanate of Oman)-Participated in live demonstration in Muscat, Oman during International Festival to be held in 2009 and again participated in 2011.
- Participated in the live demonstration in Houseware+Home Decoration show at Chicago (USA) To be held in 2011.
- Jeneva (Switzerland) Participated in the live demonstration in Jeneva festival at Jeneva to be held in 2011.

Participation in Republic Day 2011—Participated in Republic Day at Rajpat New Delhi on dated 26th January 2011 awarded by 2nd Prize to Karnataka for Karnataka Bidri Ware Tableu.sponsored and organized by Karnataka information Centre, Bangalore.

Participation in Demonstration and Exhibition at National Level like New Delhi,Orissa.Haryana, Madras, New Delhi, Chennai, Felicitation given by various dignitaries and VIPs.like Shri Basavalingappa, Shri .M.Veerappa Moily, Shri Bheemanna Khandre etc.

Channels /T.V--He also has given talk to many National and International level in India and abroad. Door-Darshan, Insat Programme of Karnataka, Video Coverage from Doordarshan National Network New Delhi in 1990.U.S.A. Television Agency covered interviews and live covered during the visit to America.

Press Media -The name, interviews photographs and details Biography has been covered by all National as well as International newspaper and news agencies.

Training Programme: Organized a training programme scheme sponsored by Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation Ltd.Bangalore and trained 20 Candidates in 2004.

Organized a S.H.T.P.in Bidri Craft sponsored development commissioner (Handicraft) Ministry of Textiles (Govt.of India), New Delhi under training 15 Candidates for a period of one year in 2006.

Member: He was also the member of Karnataka State Award Selection Committee during 1988.Member of Shram Shakti Youjne, Zilla Panchayat, Bidar in 2005.

Present position: Shah Rasheed Quadri run a Bidri shop in Bidar. Along with he gave training to many Bidri artisans. And participating National and International Craft festivals. For selling the Bidri craft and demonstration he brought name and fame to Bidar.

Shah Majeed Quadri : He was born in 1967 at Bidar. He was studied upto 10th standard. He practiced the Bidri craft being the hereditary crafts of his family naturally engaged with this craft. Since childhood along with his father and skillness of the crafts learnt from brother Shah Rasheed Quadri, National Awardee. He has also given training to the Artisans in the crafts. He has been honoured with the State Award for the year 2007-08 for his work "Flower Vase" and Phooljadi Work. Last 30 years he is involve in this work. He says that Bidri work fulfil the daily needs but not get too much property. He has his own shop in Bidar. More the six Bidri artisans working under his guidance. The manufactures Bidri articles exported in many parts of India.

Conclusion:

- The strength of the Bidri Artisans in about 900. Here in this survey very few Bidri artisans are given introduction of those Bidri artisans who won national and state as well as praise Awardee by the Government and their life history also mentioned in brief.
- After interviewing the artisans I found that 80% artisans are not satisfied with their job work. They do not get any profit after putting in so much labour and skills in this craft. The artisans often lead a poor life with suffering. Even though they have won the awards from Central and State Government. Living conditions are not improved and the Market value is also low for Bidri articles. These awards give temporary happiness to them and not life long.
- The brokers and mediators profits by 80% and 50% in gained by artisans.
- Many artisans are not educated or remain formal education as they give more preference to learn the skills of Bidri craft. Thus, majority of women and children remain illiterate, but have mastered the skills in Bidri craft.

- Majority of artisans discontinued this profession or started their own profession. Karnataka Government has made an effort to preserve this heritage of Bidri craft by starting a unit of Karnataka State Handicraft Development Corporation Ltd., Bangalore. This unit purchases Bidri articles from the Bidri artisans and thus gives a market value to these articles by selling off them many cities of India and abroad.
- The then Prime Minister of Indira Gandhi encourages Bidri artisans and allowed them to start Bidriware Crafts Complex and the business and marketing of Bidri articles. Artisans would take own decisions. Thus improve their economic status.
- It is very important to introduce and implement the policies and programmes of State and Central Government to the Bidri artisans in a well co-ordinate manner and help them to improve their socio-economic conditions.

Rasheed Quadri received Many Awards from India and Abroad



RECEIVING NATIONAL AWARD FROM SHRI R.S. VENKATARAMAN,
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GOVT. OF INDIA AT VIGNYAN BHAVAN
NEW DELHI ON 27-02-1990



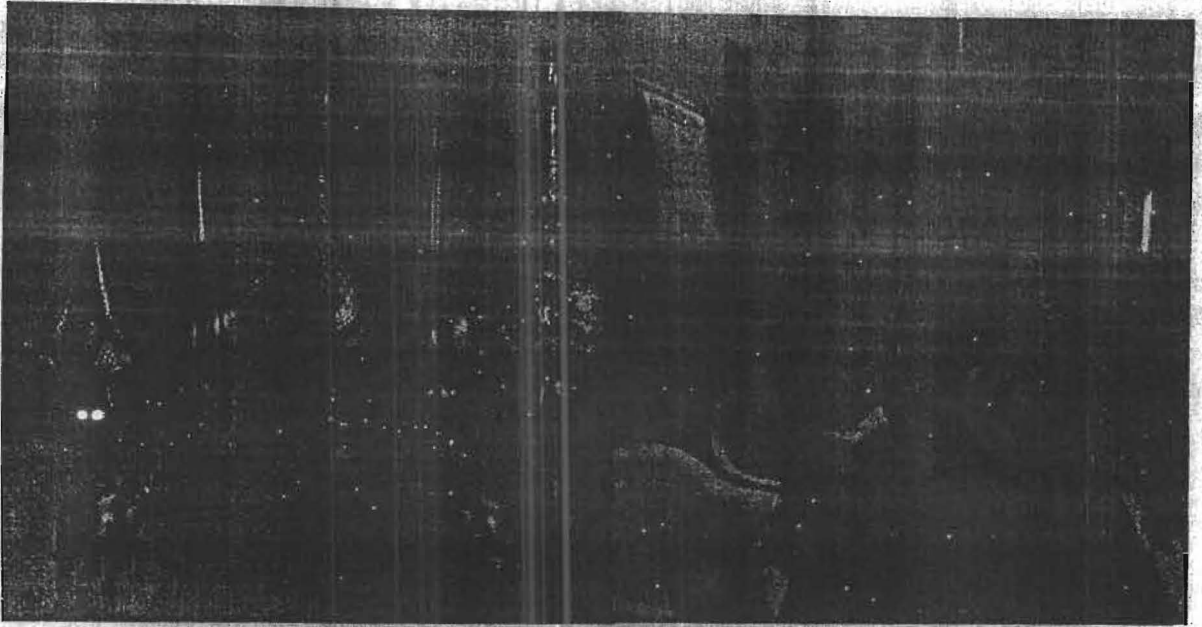
Receiving "great Indian Achiever Award" by
Shri Harsharan Singh Balli, Former Minister of Delhi at Singhania
Auditorium PHD House New Delhi on Dated 21-01-2004



RECEIVING APPRECIATION LETTER FROM THE
DIRECTOR OF MUSEUM OF SCIENCE BOSTON (U.S.A)
ON 06-09-1987



RECEIVING SURWARNA KARNATAKA RAJYA UTSAV AWARD FROM
MR. B.S. YEDVEDAPPA, HON. BLS DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
AT CHENNAYIA SWAMY CRICKET STADIUM BANGALORE ON 01/11/2006



Bidriware Articles

Visited Bidri artisan family interview with the famous Bidri artisan Mohammad Raseed Quadri

ಕಲೆಗೆ ಸಾವುಂಟು!

ಬಿದರಿ ಕಲೆಗೆ ಸಾವುಂಟು! ಬಿದರಿ ಕಲೆಗೆ ಸಾವುಂಟು! ಬಿದರಿ ಕಲೆಗೆ ಸಾವುಂಟು!



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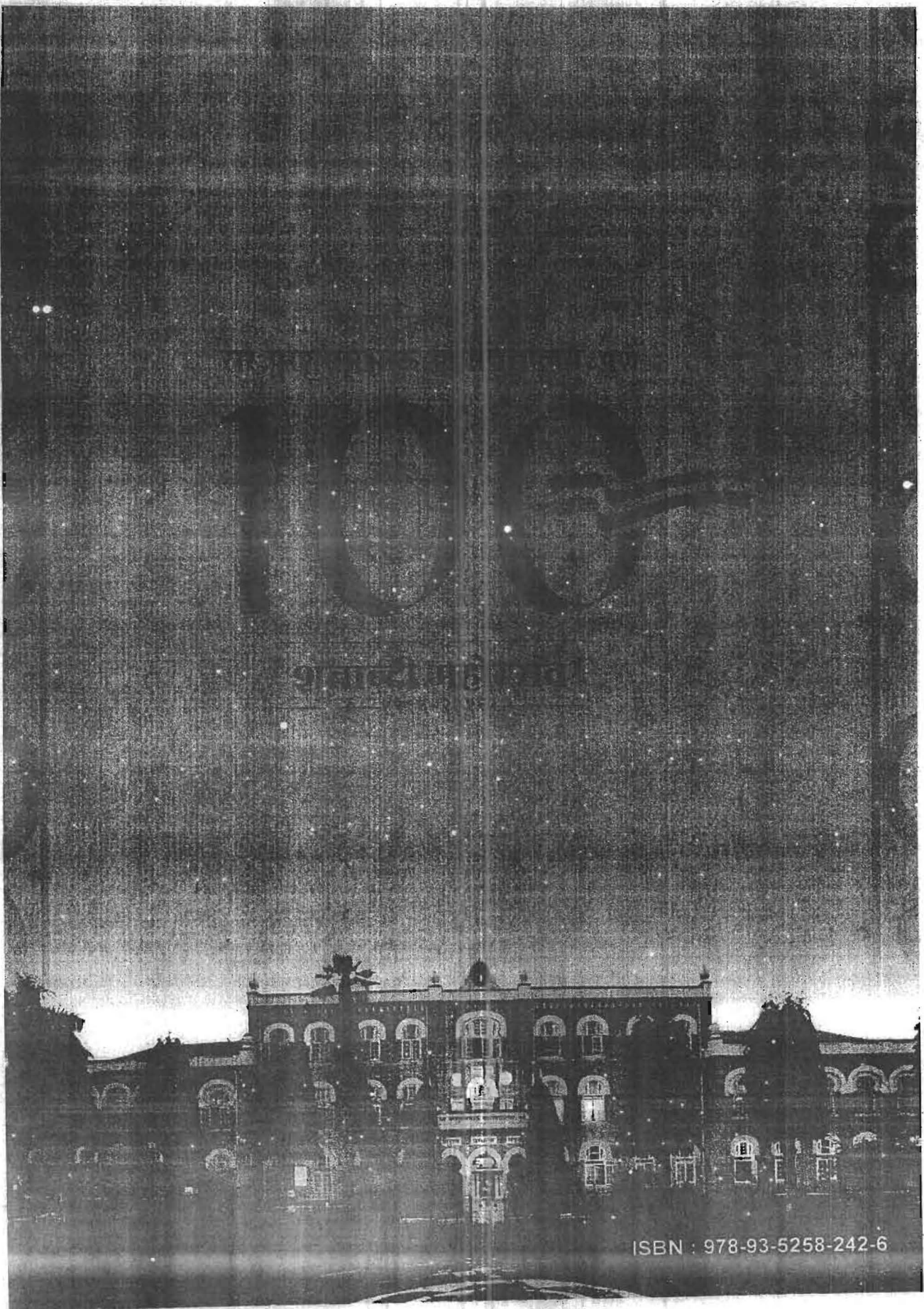
2011 Republic Day Parade Bidri got Second Prize in New Delhi, Rasheed Qadri expressed the his views about Bidri art.

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