

My Journey with Words

From childhood scribbles to books, columns, translations and a lifelong companionship with words.

Perhaps the desire to write was always somewhere in my blood. I began scribbling during my primary school days, and the first time I saw my name in print was when I was in Class VIII. It was a small beginning, but the joy of seeing my own words on a printed page stayed with me.



The Early Years

During my days at **Cotton College**, my interest in writing gradually began to take shape. I started writing short stories, and my first published story, “**Vidroh**”, appeared in *Asoma*, a journal published by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations.

Like many young people fascinated by literature, I also experimented with poetry. I wrote a few poems during those adolescent years, but soon realised that poetry was perhaps not my natural territory. Prose attracted me much more.

Later, during my college days in Chennai, I wrote a short story titled “**Aarohan**”. The story received considerable appreciation and encouragement, strengthening my belief that perhaps I had something to say through the written word.



Then came a long silence.

Writing remained somewhere within me, but professional life gradually took precedence.

Rediscovering My Passion in Goa

My passion for writing was rekindled years later at Goa Airport, largely because of one remarkable person — **Mr. Anuj Aggarwal**.

He recognised my interest in writing and constantly encouraged me to return to it. What began as occasional encouragement gradually developed into a lifelong bond of mentorship and affection. He remained an important influence on me until his passing during the pandemic in 2020.

Once I resumed writing in Goa, there was hardly a pause.

Goa fascinated me — not merely as a tourist destination, but as an example of how a place could transform its natural beauty, culture and identity into economic opportunity. I began observing Goa from the perspective of someone coming from Assam, another land blessed abundantly by nature.

Those observations eventually became my first book:

Suryo Utha Deshor Para Surya Duba Desholoi

The book was essentially a comparison between **Assam — the land of the rising sun —** and **Goa — the land of the setting sun**, viewed primarily through the prism of tourism.

Both regions possess extraordinary natural and cultural resources. Yet Goa had been able to commercialise its tourism potential and translate it into prosperity, while Assam, despite possessing comparable attractions, had not been able to realise its potential to the same extent.

That contrast became the central theme of the book.

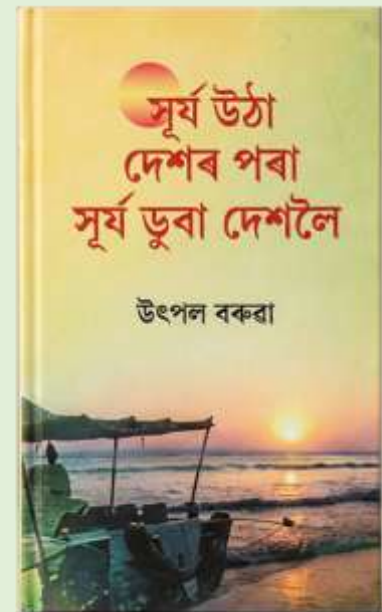
My writings during this period also began attracting attention within literary circles. In **2004, I was awarded a Travel Grant by the Sahitya Akademi**. The grant gave me an opportunity to visit Visva-Bharati University at Santiniketan and interact with several established writers in Kolkata. For an aspiring writer, it was both an enriching experience and an important milestone.

Writing for Magazines and Newspapers

Around this period, I began contributing regularly to **Prantik**, one of Assam's most respected fortnightly magazines, along with several other publications.

My subjects gradually expanded beyond travel. I wrote articles, observations and humorous essays on society, human behaviour, development and contemporary life.

When the **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** began being held regularly in Goa from 2004, I reported on the festival for Assamese newspapers for three consecutive years. It opened another window for me — observing cinema, culture, personalities and the atmosphere surrounding one of India's most prominent film festivals.



Later, while working at **Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi**, the city was preparing for the Commonwealth Games. Delhi was undergoing a remarkable transformation in infrastructure, and I wrote about these developments for *Prantik*.

By then, my subjects had become increasingly diverse.

Two of my articles — one on **positive attitude** and another on **man–woman relationships** — received particularly encouraging responses from readers. One of them was subsequently featured as a **cover story** by *Prantik*.

It was around this period that I realised my writing was gradually moving away from conventional creative fiction towards **contemporary issues, human behaviour, observation and reflective prose**.

Finding Humour in Everyday Life

Yet storytelling never completely left me.

Back home, there had been a wonderfully colourful character whom we affectionately called **Chandra Peha**. He was full of life and humour and possessed the rare ability to transform even a grave situation into something amusing.

I had also encountered two memorable teachers — **Sarbeswar Sir and Purneshwar Sir** — whose personalities and anecdotes stayed with me for years.

I began weaving these memories, experiences and observations into a series of humorous writings titled “**Jivan Bator Rax.**”

These pieces had no political message, no social agenda and no hidden intention. They were simply about people, situations and the innocent humour embedded in everyday life.

Readers responded warmly.

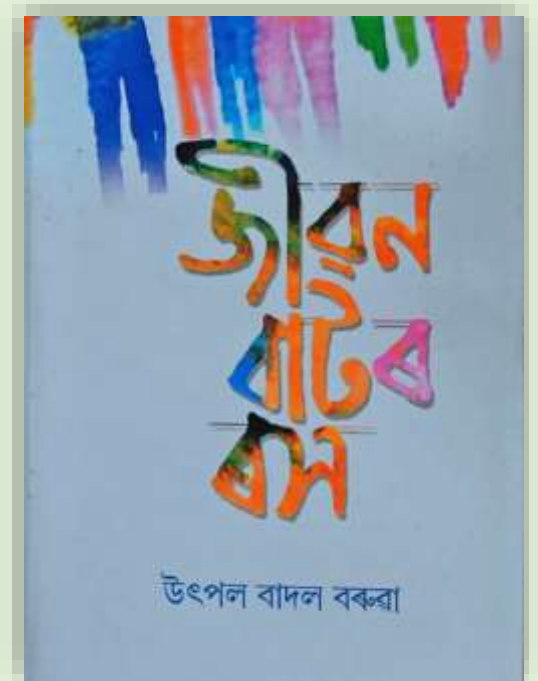
And from those stories emerged my **second book**.

Around the same period, I also ventured into literary translation. I translated a few short stories by **Damodar Mauzo**, the Jnanpith Award-winning Konkani writer. The appreciation those translations received from Assamese readers encouraged me to explore translation more seriously.

From Occasional Writing to a Regular Column

As my professional journey in aviation progressed, it exposed me to different cities, people, organisations, cultures and situations. Life itself seemed to provide an ever-expanding collection of subjects to write about.

At this stage, noted writer, novelist and editor **Anuradha Sarma Pujari** invited me to contribute a regular column to the popular Assamese weekly *Sadin*.



The column was titled: **Door Drishti — Far Sightedness**

It gave me the opportunity to write regularly on issues that interested me — society, development, human behaviour, professional experiences and contemporary events.

When *Sadin* later ceased appearing regularly, my column-writing journey continued with **Dainik Asom**, one of Assam's longstanding Assamese newspapers.

Writing had by then become much more than an occasional creative pursuit. It had become a way of observing the world and engaging with it.



***Drishtibhangi* — My Third Book**

In **2024**, I published my third book, **** Drishtibhangi — “Outlook”****.

It is an anthology of selected articles written over the years — pieces that I felt continued to carry relevance beyond the occasions on which they were originally written.

The appreciation the book received from readers was deeply satisfying. More importantly, *Drishtibhangi* represented the direction my writing had taken over time: observing familiar subjects from different perspectives and trying to discover a meaning that might otherwise remain unnoticed.

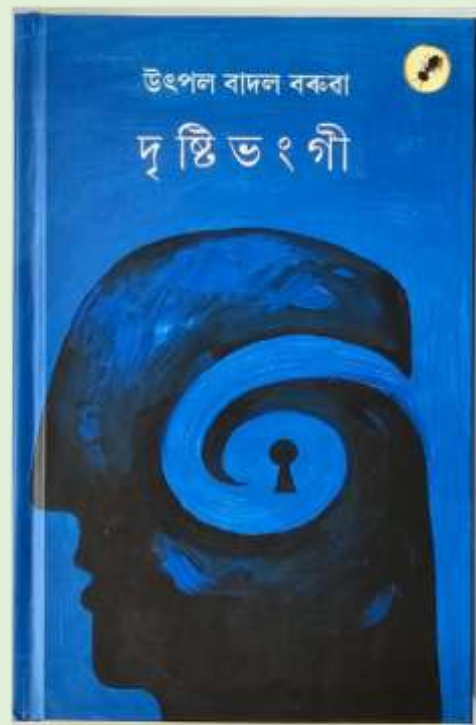
Writers Who Influenced Me

Among the many writers I have read, two have influenced me particularly deeply:



Dr. Bhabendra Nath Saikia in Assamese and Khushwant Singh in English.

Dr. Saikia's simplicity, precision and extraordinary ability to portray ordinary human lives have always fascinated me. Khushwant Singh attracted me for a different reason — his directness, humour, candour and unmistakably individual voice. My admiration for Khushwant Singh eventually led me to undertake one of my most ambitious literary projects — translating his celebrated autobiography:



Truth, Love & a Little Malice

The Assamese translation was accepted for serial publication by **Satsori**, the popular monthly magazine edited by Anuradha Sarma Pujari, and publication began in **July 2025**.

For me, translation is more than changing words from one language into another. It is an attempt to carry the author's personality, humour, emotion and cultural nuances across linguistic boundaries without losing the flavour of the original.



And the Journey Continues...

Looking back, my journey as a writer has never followed a carefully designed path.

It began with childhood scribbles, travelled through short stories and youthful experiments with poetry, paused for years, came alive again in Goa, found expression in books, magazines, newspapers and columns, and eventually led me towards literary translation.

My professional life in aviation has taken me to different places and introduced me to extraordinary people. My personal life has given me characters, memories, humour and experiences. Literature has given me a way to preserve them.

I have never considered writing merely an exercise in arranging words.

For me, writing is a way of observing life — and perhaps, of understanding it a little better.

And the journey with words continues...