



**AeroPerspectives' INFLUENCERS**  
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## ***Combining Three Loves***

### **An Interview with Angad Singh, *Vayu*, Young Journalist Award, Aerospace Media Awards 2016**



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So many jobs can be the same old same old. But to be able to combine not one but three loves in paid work is rare. Angad Singh, an editor at the *Vayu Aerospace and Defence Review*, is one of those happy people. Singh is also winner of the Best Young Journalist honour in the 2016 Aerospace Media Awards.

### **Love Number 1 – Writing**

Angad was not your average student. Instead of dreading writing essays, he enjoyed it. He was inspired by his 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher who included essay, report and letter writing in her course. She never wanted her students to just put together 300 words and hope for the best; she taught structure, he said, lessons he still applies today.

### **Love Number 2 – Photography**

He bought his sister a really good camera, “and I ended up using it a lot more than she did.” When she left home, taking her camera, Angad had to buy another camera for himself.

### **Love Number 3 – Aviation**

Military and aviation was in his blood. His great grandfather fought in WWII in Europe with the Royal Air Force and later with the Indian Air Force, becoming an Air Marshall. Angad primed his interest by taking photos at air shows.

### **How He Found His Calling**

Angad’s dream was to write for *GQ* (*Gentleman’s Quarterly* magazine) but while he was job hunting his dad told him about a contact who had an aviation magazine. He took the air show photos to his interview and in January 2012 started work.

In March 2012 he attended Defexpo and “jumped in the deep end,” working on three show dailies and a special show issue. “That was when it clicked in place for me. I felt like this was something I could do and enjoy,” Angad said. “I stopped putting out feelers for GQ.” He had found what he wanted to do.

In reading Angad’s work, his leads stand out, which might go back to that English teacher. “She taught that the lead should essentially be a précis of your report.”

Part of the strength in his reporting is preparation. If the topic or the company is unfamiliar to him, he spends anywhere from a couple of hours to a day to prepare for an interview. Then he writes out six to eight questions to ask, but he says it is important to let the conversation drift naturally. “I open with the first question and then let the conversation go where it goes. A trick is to keep looking down at the list and make sure I can steer the conversation to the next topic and the next and the next to make sure I walk away from the conversation with what I came to collect.”

He tries to put the person at ease, but says if an interviewee is uncomfortable it can be difficult. “The military and government are the most ‘camera shy’ people in the world,” Angad said. Since he talks to many people in the industry regularly, he feels it is important to build relationships with trust.

During the interview he scribbles notes, but also records his interview. That way he can go back to the recording and get the exact quote or statistic. Although his accuracy has rarely been challenged, when it has he has always been right.

If an interviewee asks to fact-check an article, he complies, but he doesn’t volunteer it.

### **Favorite Stories**

“In my heart of hearts, I’m a tech guy, a bit of a geek, so I love the really technical stuff,” Angad said. He likes to write about operational subjects, military units in the fields, deployments, exercises, combat reports. “You want to get to the meat of what they did and how they did it. I think detail is key for my enjoyment of stories like that.”

Interesting photos also help him tell a story, and he urges PR folks to provide multiple photos so the same one doesn’t get used over and over.

India is a hot market, thus corporate media representatives usually get back to him quickly. His publication has a reasonable lead time so a quick turnaround might not be as urgent as it would be for a daily paper or an online publication.



Check out Angad’s award-winning writing:

[Working with the New India, Vayu, 2016](#)

[Surya Kirans in Their New Avtaar, Vayu, 2015](#)