

BRIEF BIO-DATA

Prof. Rajeev Sangal is the Director of the Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi.

He holds a B Tech in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur, and MS and Ph D in Computer and Information Science from the University of Pennsylvania. He is known for his work on computers and processing of human languages, and in particular on automatic translation among Indian languages.

Before joining his current position he led a newly established research University, namely IIIT Hyderabad, for 11 years as its Director. In the new University, he helped create an innovative academic structure around research centres rather than departments; a radical research-oriented undergraduate curriculum; integrated trans-disciplinary B Tech-MS programmes; research that tries to connect with society & industry; and an environment of experimentation, openness, and caring.

He designed and helped make human values course a regular part of the academic curriculum at IIIT-H in 2005. It has played a major role in shaping the atmosphere of the Institute, and drawing attention to larger human and societal concerns. There is also an attempt to run the institution on these principles. Since then the course has spread to several universities in India and abroad.

His research in Natural Language Processing led to the development of Computational Paninian Grammar (CPG) framework. It has been applied to parsing; semantics and morphological analysis of Indian languages etc. and forms the basis of several machine translation systems among Indian languages as well as English. He leads/mentors the multi-institutional consortium that has developed MT systems for 18 Indian language pairs. He has authored 4 books and many research papers.

He is a fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering and of Computer Society of India. He was given Vasvik award in 2008. As the President of NLP Association, India from 2002 onwards he helped organize the community of NLP researchers and started ICON, a high-quality annual NLP conference. He referees for many major conferences such as IJCNLP, ICON, COLING and ACL, and has been on the editorial board of journals computational Linguistics, Corpora, ACM Trans. of Asian Language Processing, Machine Translation, NL Engineering, etc.

He was a member of the National Review Committee for PG programs in Engineering in India from 1996-98. He headed the Department of Computer Sci. & Engg. at IIT Kanpur 1987-90 where he spent 15 years as a faculty member.