Jai Prakash Vishwavidyalaya (University) was established on 22.11.90 by the enactment of Section 3(b) of Bihar State Universities Act, 1976 with its Head Quarters at Chapra, after Carving it out from the then, Bihar University (now B.R.A. Bihar University) Muzaffarpur. The territorial jurisdiction of the University is stretched over the whole of Saran Division Comprising three districts of Chapra, Siwan and Gopalganj.

The Colleges situated in these districts were automatically transferred to Jai Prakash University, Chapra. There are altogether 21 constitute Colleges, 11 affiliated colleges in which 2 are deficit Grant Colleges (including one minority college). There are some proposed Colleges of which a few are professional colleges.

The Head Office of Jai Prakash Vishwavidyalaya is located in the eastern side of Chapra town. The University offices are functioning here from 9th April 2008. 242 acres of land has been acquired here for University campus.

The University building construction is going on in full swing. Chapra is connected to rest of India and its major Cities through road and rail links. It in turn is also connected to the state capital, Patna.

The University Department of Botany and Zoology are functioning from Science Block, Physics, Chemistry, Geography and Psychology are functioning from EBC Hostel building, the Directorate of Distance Education and Central Library are running in the campus of Jai Prakash University, Chapra.

The University Department of Hindi, Bhojpuri and Philosophy are functioning from Inspection Bungalow of local State Electricity Department at Dak Bunglow Road (earlier University Headquarter) and rest of all Non-practical subject Departments of Arts and Commerce are located at PG Building in Rajendra College Campus on Gudri Main Road.