Makhanlal Chaturvedi Rashtriya Patrakarita Vishwavidyalaya, Bhopal, was set up by
Act Number 15 of 1990 of the Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh. The University
is named after Makhanlal Chaturvedi, a renowned Freedom Fighter, Poet and
Journalist. This University was formally inaugurated by Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma,
the then Vice President of India, on 16th January, 1991. The University is a member
of the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the Association of Indian
Universities (AIU). It is not an Open University providing Distance Education. It does
not provide education through correspondence. It is not a Conventional University
having limited territorial jurisdiction. It has jurisdiction throughout the country.
Consistent with the recent trend of globalisation and internationalisation of education,
the University is imparting education outside the country also.

In keeping with its national character:-

- The Vice President of India is the Visitor of the University
- The General Council of the University, which is its Apex Body, comprises,
amongst others, the following:-
  - A member of the Lok Sabha, nominated by the Speaker of Lok Sabha
  - A member of the Rajya Sabha, nominated by the Chairperson of Rajya
    Sabha
  - Chairman of the Press Council of India
  - Ten members representing different States of the country. Five of them
    are nominated by Chief Ministers of respective States. The remaining five
    are representatives of five Indian languages
  - Three members representing three All India Professional Bodies.
  - Five professionals from various parts of the country.

The University aims at developing excellent professionals with social commitment. The
University imparts education through:-

- Its Teaching Departments at Bhopal
- Its campuses at Noida, which is now for all practical purposes, a part of
  Delhi; and at Khandwa
- Network of Study Institutes spread over the whole country

These Study Institutes are run by non-profit Societies & Trusts which are registered
under the relevant laws. The relationship between the University and its Study
Institutes comes closest to, and can be best described as, that existing between a
Conventional University and its Affiliated Colleges.