

World Braille Day

Why in News?

Recently, the World Braille Day was observed on January 4th, to commemorate the birthday of Louis Braille.

- **Braille** - It is a tactile representation of ***alphabetic and numerical symbols using 6 dots*** to represent each letter, number and even musical, mathematical and scientific symbols.
- **Significance** - It is used by *blind and partially sighted people* to read the books and periodicals as those printed in a visual font.

Braille, named after its inventor, **Louis Braille** in 19th century in France.

• Demographic Status:

Worldwide	• Accounts for over a billion .
India	• As per Census 2011, the number of Persons with Disabilities in the country are 2.68 crore , which is 2.21% of the total population of the Country.

According to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016, there are **21 types of Disabilities** which includes Locomotor Disability, Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment, Speech & Language Disability, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Cerebral Palsy, Dwarfism etc.

Initiatives for Visually Impaired Person

- **National Association for the Blind** - It aims to make approximately 10,000 pages of *documents of government schemes and legal reliefs*, accessible to persons with visual disabilities.
- **National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) (Divyangjan)** - It works in the field of visual disability for the education, training, rehabilitation & empowerment of persons since 1943.
- **Model School for the Visually Handicapped (MSVH)** - It imparts *education to children* from the Bal Vatika to senior secondary level.
- **Braille Development Unit** - Contribution to the development of *Braille Codes* in different Indian languages.
- **National Accessible Library** - To provide *learning materials* in various accessible formats Braille, large print, audio and E-pub.
- **Braille Production** - NIEPVD infrastructure for printing Braille textbooks and magazines.
- It infrastructure comprises the *Central Braille Press established in 1951*, the Regional Braille Press established in 2008 at Chennai and 25 other Braille Presses established by the Government.
- The Braille literature in the following *14 languages*, that include Assamese, Bangla, English, Garo, Hindi, Khasi, Kannada, Lusai, Nagamese, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Telugu, Tamil and Urdu.

Reference

[PIB| Braille & Initiatives for Visually Impaired Persons](#)

