

## **World Braille Day**

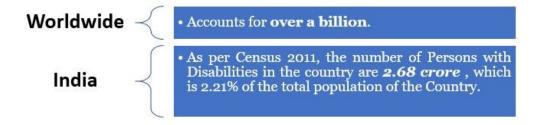
## Why in News?

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

- Braille It is a tactile representation of <u>alphabetic and numerical symbols using 6</u>
  <u>dots</u> 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 19<sup>th</sup> century in France.

• Demographic Status:



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 <u>documents of government schemes and legal reliefs</u>, 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 <u>education to children</u> from the Bal Vatika to senior secondary level.
- **Braille Development Unit** Contribution to the development of <u>Braille Codes</u> 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 <u>Central Braille Press established in 1951</u>, the Regional Braille Press established in 2008 at Chennai and 25 other Braille Presses established by the Government.
- The Braille literature in the following <u>14 languages</u>, 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

