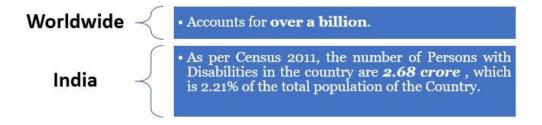# World Braille Day

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](#)