World Braille Day

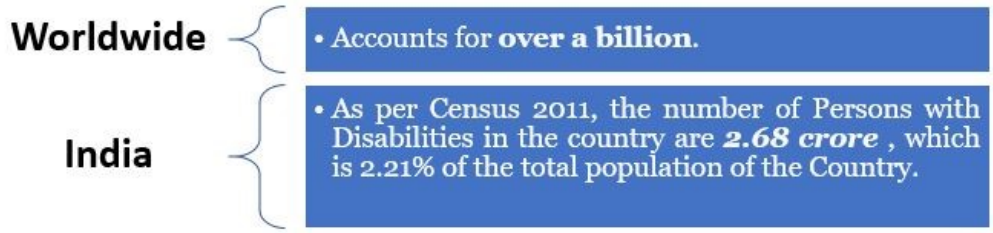
Why in News?

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**:



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

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