



World Braille Day

Theme: Empowering Through Inclusion and Diversity

Empowering Through Inclusion and Diversity as the theme for this year highlights the commitment to creating a world where individuals with visual impairments are not only recognized but fully included in all aspects of society. It emphasizes the transformative power of embracing diversity within the visually impaired community. Advocates for an inclusive and enabling environments for all regardless of abilities.

Commemorated annually on the 4th of January, it coincides with the birthday of Louis Braille, a French citizen who lost his sight after an accident as a kid and sought to better his situation. He came up with an idea of using raised dots to make a special code that can be read by fingertips. Today recognizes his contributions and appreciates how braille has made life better for millions of blind people around the world. It also reminds us that visually impaired individuals should have the same rights as everyone else. This day was first celebrated in 2019.

Braille is a tactile representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols using 6 dots. It is a code thus various languages and subjects such as music, science or mathematics can be written through it. It can also be described as a tool using combinations of red dots to spell out numbers and letters. There are sixty-three combinations of these dots and different countries have modified and formulated their own forms.

Facts about Braille



It is not a language.

It is an alphabet that can be used to write almost any language and versions are available such as Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew etc.



There are two versions.

Uncontracted braille spells out every word while contracted braille abbreviates familiar words.



There are toys in Braille.

Monopoly and Lego are available in braille.



Nemeth code

This is a special kind of code for science and mathematics.

References

1. World Braille Day 2024; Theme, Significance and History. Oliveboard 2023.
2. The importance of Braille literacy, The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. 1st December 2021