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Airports to be Powered by Solar Power

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Why in News

Recently, **Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)** director K.K. Verma informed that the **Birsa Munda airport in Ranchi** and **four other upcoming airports** in the state will be powered by solar energy under the **Green Initiative** of the government.

Key Points

- Apart from Ranchi, the airports of **Dumka, Deoghar, Bokaro and Giridih will be covered** under the green initiative. The state government has allocated Rs 20 crore for this project and has set a target to complete it in six months.
- After completion of the project each of the five airports equipped with solar panels will generate **600 kW of electricity per day**. This initiative will not only make airports self-sufficient in terms of energy generation, but will also illuminate some residential areas with solar energy.
- **Birsa Munda Airport** is currently the **only fully-operated airport in Jharkhand**, remaining four airports are likely to start operations within a year.
- It is worth mentioning that the state government has approved the expansion plan of Ranchi airport and **signed an MoU with AAI for expansion of the airport** in more than 300 acres.
- It is noteworthy that **Puducherry airport in Tamil Nadu became the first fully solar powered airport in the country in 2020** under the Airports Authority of India (AAI). In addition, it is claimed that the **Cochin International Airport (Kerala)**, is the **world's first solar powered airport** to run in a **public-private partnership** mode.