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Critical Minerals (Source: The Hindu)

Critical minerals are those minerals that are essential for economic development and national security of a country.

- **Examples:** Lithium, Cobalt, Nickel and Graphite, etc.

Major Features

- High supply risk
- Limited substitutes
- Strategic importance

Applications

- **Green Energy:** Lithium, cobalt, and nickel form the core of lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles (EVs), and Graphite supports EV batteries and fuel cells.
- **Electronics and Tech:** Gallium and germanium drive semiconductors, LEDs, integrated circuits, and optical fibers. Copper is fundamental for wiring, solar infrastructure, and consumer electronics.
- **Defense and Aerospace:** Rare earths and titanium enhance jet engines, missile guidance, fighter jets, and submarines. Hafnium aids nuclear reactors and superalloys for strategic tech. Beryllium supports satellites and space telescopes.
- **Healthcare and Other Uses:** Cadmium and bismuth feature in medical imaging like MRI systems and pharmaceuticals. Antimony provides flame retardants and alloys, while beryllium aids automotive and machinery manufacturing.



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2 International Criminal Court (ICC) (Source: The Hindu)

- **What is it?:** The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an intergovernmental organisation and international tribunal.
- **Formation**
 - It is the first permanently established international criminal court.
 - The Rome Statute, its foundational document, became effective on July 1, 2002.
- **Headquarters:** The Hague, Netherlands
- **What do they do?:** It looks into and prosecutes those accused of heinous offences such as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and acts of aggression.
- **Status of India:** India is not a member.



3 Spectrum and Spectrum Allocation Rules (Source: The Hindu)

