

## Catalonian Referendum - Part II

Click [here](#) for Part I

\n\n

### **Why in news?**

\n\n

Spain's Central government said that it will move to seize some of the Catalan regional government's powers.

\n\n

### **What was the measure?**

\n\n

\n

- Separatist leaders of Catalonia recently conducted a referendum.
- The majority voted 'yes' for separation. The supporters of 'no' mostly restrained from voting.
- Following this, Catalonia's separatist leader indicated that he could declare independence.
- The central government in Madrid had warned that it would trigger Article 155 of Spain's Constitution unless separatists backed down.
- This measure will allow them to impose direct rule over the wealthy north-eastern region.
- If Madrid triggers Article 155, in response, Catalan lawmakers could vote to declare secession unilaterally.

\n

\n\n

### **What could be the consequences?**

\n\n

\n

- In such case Madrid might potentially suspend the present Catalan government and take over its police force.

\n

- Catalans who even oppose independence cherish their autonomy highly.

\n

- So this could spark unrest in a region.

\n

- The Catalonia crisis has prompted a series of huge street rallies and worried investors.

\n

- More than 800 companies have moved their legal headquarters out of Catalonia, citing the risk of instability.

\n

- Madrid has cut its national growth forecast for next year to 2.3%.

\n

- This also adds to the woes of a European Union already grappling with Brexit.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n

