Catalonian Referendum - Part II

Click here for Part I

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Why in news?

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

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What was the measure?

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

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- In such case Madrid might potentially suspend the present Catalan government and take over its police force.
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- Catalans who even oppose independence cherish their autonomy highly.
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- So this could spark unrest in a region.
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- The Catalonia crisis has prompted a series of huge street rallies and worried investors.
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- More than 800 companies have moved their legal headquarters out of Catalonia, citing the risk of instability.
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- Madrid has cut its national growth forecast for next year to 2.3%.
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- This also adds to the woes of a European Union already grappling with Brexit.
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Source: The Hindu

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