CONTEXT:

# 18th Non Aligned Movement (NAM) summit to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

# PM Modi skips NAM summit again (for 2nd time)

# PM's absence indicates a decisive move away from past practice at the 60-year-old organisation that India was a founding member of.

NEWS:

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu will represent India at the 18th NAM summit.

17th NAM Summit (which was held in Venezuela) was represented by then Vice-President Hamid Ansari.

Since NAM was inaugurated in 1961, the Indian Prime Minister has always attended the NAM summit, except in 1979, when Chaudhury Charan Singh was the caretaker PM and hence missed it, and in 2016.

NAM:

The Non-Aligned Movement is a Movement of 115 members representing the interests and priorities of developing countries and against blindly following any power block during the cold war era.

NAM was a result of the war between the two blocks during the cold war.

The movement began with the “Bandung Process” in 1956 by India, Indonesia, former Yugoslavia, Egypt and other countries.

First meeting of the NAM was held in Belgrade in 1961 by Yugoslavia.

Principles of NAM:

1. Mutual respect for each other’s territorial integrity and sovereignty.
2. Mutual non-aggression.
4. Equality and mutual benefit.
5. Peaceful co-existence.

Policies and ideology:

The Non-Aligned Movement is unified by its declared commitment to world peace and security.

The Non-Aligned Movement espouses policies and practices of cooperation, especially those that are multilateral and provide mutual benefit to all those involved.

The Non-Aligned Movement has played a major role in various ideological conflicts throughout its existence, including extreme opposition to apartheid governments and support of guerrilla movements in various locations, including Rhodesia and South Africa.

The Non-Aligned Movement has become a voice of support for issues facing developing nations and it still contains ideals that are legitimate within this context.

Present NAM:
India, which clung to non-alignment as its international identity since Independence, slowly deviated from it after the big LPG reforms, 1991.

Since the end of the Cold War and the formal end of colonialism, the Non-Aligned Movement has been forced to redefine itself and reinvent its purpose in the current world system.

India no longer wants to be isolated from the western power blocs.

India wants its voice to be heard at the global level.

However, India still maintains that “It remains committed to the principles and objectives of the Non Aligned Movement”.