



## Impeachment begins against Donald Trump

The democratic party-controlled Congress has initiated impeachment proceedings against US President Donald Trump, capping of a long week in Washington DC. Buzz about impeachment started when it was revealed that whistle blower from the intelligence community had submitted a complaint alleging that the President had abused his office for personal gain and had compromised the security and safety of the United States while doing so. There were rumours that the complaint concerned a phone call that Donald Trump had with the Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelensky. The subsequent release of a memo of the call by the White House and declassification of the whistle blower complaint confirmed this. In the call, Trump asks Zelensky for a quid-pro-quo, promising to release aid to Ukraine only if the Ukrainian government investigated the business dealings of Hunter Biden, the son of former Vice-President and current Democratic Presidential Primary Nominee Joe Biden. Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that the Congressional House will begin impeachment proceeding and has started subpoenaing witnesses to testify. However, impeachment will be a long and complicated battle, with the Republicans controlling the senate and refusing to cooperate.



US Capitol Building; Source: Wikipedia



Jacques Chirac in 1997; Source: Wikipedia

## Former French President Jacques Chirac Passes Away

Former French President Jacques Chirac passed away on September 26, 2019 at the age of 86. In a political career spanning nearly 5 decades, Chirac served terms as the Mayor of Paris, Prime Minister of France and the President of France. Chirac was one of France's most loved politicians, despite being one of their most unpopular Presidents. As President, he was seen as someone who talked big but delivered little. He had no fixed political ideology, transitioning from being a Gaullist to being a Neo-liberal to arguing for Socialist policies in his second term as president. His finest moment came in 2003, when he refused to join the US-led invasion of Iraq. His post-presidential days were blighted by a conviction for corruption in 2011. Despite this, thousands of mourners queued to provide their last respects to him, and he was honored by all four living French Presidents.

## Repression in Rwanda

A second senior official from Rwanda's largest opposition party has been killed in the run-up to the Rwandan presidential elections, emblematic of Rwanda's paradoxical situation. Post the Tutsi genocide of 1994, it has emerged as one of the more progressive and better performing African nations - low corruption, majority representation of women in legislative bodies, decriminalization of homosexuality and lack of tensions between the Tutsi and Hutu communities. But at the same time the Rwandan government is politically repressive - nearly all media is owned by the government and critics of Paul Kagame and the Rwandan government are regularly detained and even assassinated. However, Rwanda remains a stable country with strong economic growth and stability, and Kagame is still generally popular among the Rwandan people.



Rwandan President Paul Kagame; Source: Wikimedia commons