

## US Presidential Elections & Russian Tampering

### Why in news?

\n\n

There is an ongoing investigations on Russian involvement to tamper the American Presidential elections.

\n\n

### How did the case unfold?

\n\n

\n

- **The Controversy** - First signs of Russian complicity in hacking the emails of Hillary came when Mr. Trump began to speak of friendly relations with Russia.

\n

- The situation snowballed into a crisis post-election, and Mr.Trump faces charges of colluding with a foreign government to rig the election in his favour.

\n

- Notably, former Presidents Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton faced similar charges in the impeachment proceedings against them.

\n

- **Investigation** - The investigation began with the appointment of Robert Mueller, as Special Counsel by the Justice Department.

\n

- Also two Congressional committees were constituted for the same.

\n

- Evidence is mounting that Mr. Trump's camp colluded with the Russians to gather information about Ms. Clinton.

\n

- The allegation is that Mr.Trump's close aides met with several other Russians during the campaign trail.

\n

- Based on these initial leads, Mr.Trump's campaign chairman, Mr. Paul Manafort became the first Republican to be accused.

\n

\n\n

## **What is the impact on bilateral ties?**

\n\n

- \n
- As the Special Prosecutor closes in on the President, U.S.-Russia relations are on a downward spiral.
- \n
- The U.S. sanctions against Russia, tensions in Syria & Korean Peninsula, and the stalemate over Ukraine are problems that defy solutions.
- \n
- Mr.Putin recently deplored what he termed an “unprecedented” anti-Russia campaign in the U.S.
- \n
- As Russian diplomatic facilities were closed and Russia media has been stifled by US authorities, Putin has promised a symmetrical counter response.
- \n

\n\n

## **How does the future look?**

\n\n

- \n
- Russia probably did meddled in the U.S. elections.
- \n
- But even if the Mueller investigation throws up evidence, the President might turn out to be not guilty.
- \n
- As it is highly improbable to pin the investigations directly down till the president, an impeachment is not likely on this account.
- \n
- But the shadow such evidence casts on elections in the U.S. and U.S.-Russia relations will be dark and deep.
- \n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*