

A photograph of Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the President of Ukraine, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is gesturing with his right hand. The background is a blue wall with a Ukrainian flag on the left.

Today in History

April 21, 2019

▲ **Comedian Volodymyr Zelensky was a surprise winner of Ukraine's presidential election. A political novice, he had previously played the role in a satirical TV show**

2002: A shock result saw extreme-right winger Jean Marie Le Pen win the first round of France's presidential election

2009: An extrasolar planet, Gliese 581e, with a mass relatively close to that of Earth, was discovered

2015: Japan's state-of-the-art Maglev train set a new world speed record of 603km/h in a test run near Mt Fuji

2021: An Indonesian submarine, the KRI Nanggala, sank during a torpedo drill, killing all 53 crew