

# Kamala, Trump clash bitterly in presidential debate

■ By Lalit K Jha  
WASHINGTON, Sept 11 (PTI)

KAMALA Harris repeatedly got under the skin of Donald Trump in their first presidential debate, challenging him on foreign policy, economy and abortion as she sought to erase the memory of President Joe Biden's disastrous face-off earlier with the Republican candidate.

"You're not running against Joe Biden. You're running against me," Vice President Harris, who is the Democratic candidate, told the former President, when he criticised the current administration.

The matchup on TV on Tuesday night began with a handshake—Harris took the initiative walking up to Trump's lectern—but later descended

into acrimony.

"I think you've heard tonight two very different visions for our country, one that is focused on the future and the other that is focused on the past and an attempt to take us backwards. But we're not going back," Harris, 59, said in her remarks towards the end of the 90-minute debate in Pennsylvania.

She claimed that the world leaders are "laughing at Donald Trump", and pulled no punches. "I have talked with military leaders, some of whom worked with you, and they say you're a disgrace," she said.

Trump, 78, asked why Harris had not done during the Biden-Harris administration what she is promising now.

"She just started by saying she's going to do this, she's going



to do that. She's going to do all these wonderful things. Why hasn't she done it? She's been there for three and a half years," he said.

"They've had three and a half years to fix the border. They've had three and a half years to



create jobs and all the things we talked about. Why hasn't she done it?" he asked in his concluding remarks.

This was the second presidential debate but the first between Trump and Harris. Biden put up a terrible per-

formance against Trump in the first debate, and withdrew from the race, paving the way for Harris to be the Democratic Party's nominee for the November elections.

"As I said, you're going to hear a bunch of lies, and that's not actually a surprising fact," Harris said.

She said if Trump is re-elected, he would sign a national abortion ban bill. "There would be a national abortion monitor that would be monitoring your pregnancies, your miscarriages," she claimed.

"I think the American people believe that certain freedoms, in particular, the freedom to make decisions about one's own body, should not be made by the Government," she said.

Trump countered that the

abortion policy should be determined by the States.

There she goes again. It's a lie. I'm not signing a ban, and there's no reason to sign a ban because we've gotten what everybody wanted. Democrats, Republicans, and everybody else and every legal scholar wanted it to be brought back into the states, and the states are voting," he said.

The two sparred over election rallies.

"It's a really interesting thing to watch. You will see, during the course of his rallies, he talks about fictional characters like Hannibal Lecter. He will talk about windmills cause cancer. And what you will also notice is that people start leaving his rallies early out of exhaustion and boredom," she jibed.

And Trump accused Harris

— without providing evidence — of paying people to attend her campaign events.

"We have the biggest rallies, the most incredible rallies in the history of politics. That's because people want to take their country back. Our country is being lost," he said.

"I believe very strongly that the American people want a President who understands the importance of bringing us together and that we have so much more in common than what separates us. And I pledge to you to be a President for all Americans," Harris said.

Fox News, often considered partial towards Trump, said in its headline to an opinion piece, "In the Trump-Harris face-off there was a clear winner but don't believe this election is over."

# Need to focus on new areas like Green Hydrogen: PM

NEW DELHI, Sep 11 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday stressed on the need to focus on new areas of energy transition like Green Hydrogen to deal with climate change saying it is not a matter of future rather it calls for an action now.

Addressing through a video message the 2nd International Conference on Green Hydrogen India 2024, Modi said, "There is a growing realisation that climate change is not just a matter of the future. The impact of climate change is being felt here and now. The time for action is also here and now." He was of the view that energy transition and sustainability have become central to global policy discourse.

He noted that Green Hydrogen is emerging as a promising addition to the world's energy landscape and it can help in decarbonising industries that are difficult to electrify. Refineries, fertilizers, steel, heavy-duty transportation -- many such sectors will benefit, he pointed out.

Green Hydrogen can also act as a storage solution for surplus renewable energy, he opined noting that India has already launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission in 2023. The event is to further the Green Hydrogen mission for which the Government had allocated Rs 19,744 crore. "We want to make India a global hub for the production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen," Modi said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the 2nd International Conference on Green Hydrogen via video-conferencing on Wednesday. (PTI)

The National Green Hydrogen Mission is giving an impetus to innovation, infrastructure, industry and invest-

ment. "We are investing in cutting-edge research and development. Partnerships between industry and academia are being formed. Startups and entrepreneurs who are working in this domain are being encouraged," he added.

There is also a great potential for a green jobs ecosystem to develop. To enable this, we are also working on skill development for our youth in this sector, he stated. Modi stated that climate change and energy transition are global concerns. "Our answers also need to be global in nature. International partnership is critical for promoting Green Hydrogen's impact on decarbonisation," he said. Scaling up production, minimising costs and building

infrastructure can happen faster through cooperation, he opined.

**"There is a growing realisation that climate change is not just a matter of the future. The impact of climate change is being felt here and now. The time for action is also here and now."  
-- PM Modi**

"We also need to jointly invest in research and innovation to push technology further. In September 2023, the G20 Summit happened in India. In this Summit, there was a special focus on Green Hydrogen,"

he stated. Giving food for thought to scientists, he posed questions "Can we improve the efficiency of electrolyzers and other components in Green Hydrogen production? Can we explore the use of sea water and municipal waste water for production? How can we enable the use of Green Hydrogen in public transport, shipping, and inland waterways?" He was of the view that exploring such topics together will greatly help green energy transition across the world. On Paris commitments, he said that these were fulfilled 9 years ahead of the target of 2030. India's installed non-fossil fuel capacity increased nearly 300 per cent in the last 10 years, he noted.



**Business**

# It's our dream

## Every device in world will have Indian-made chip: PM

GREATER NOIDA, Sept 11 (IANS)

**OUR** dream is that every device in the world will have an Indian-made chip and 100 per cent of electronic manufacturing should happen in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

Inaugurating the 'Semicon India 2024' at the India Expo Mart in Greater Noida, PM Modi said the meaning of chips in India is not just limited to technology but is a medium to fulfil the aspirations of crores of citizens.

Underlining that India is a huge consumer of such chips, he emphasised that the world's finest digital public infrastructure (DPI) was built upon it.

"This small chip is doing big things

to ensure last-mile delivery in India. Be it India's UPI, Rupay Card, Digi Locker or Digi Yatra, multiple digital platforms have become a part of the everyday life of the people of India," the Prime Minister noted.

Stressing that the country is set to play a big role in driving the global semiconductor industry, he highlighted that the Government is offering 50 per cent financial support for setting up semiconductor manufacturing facilities, with State Governments also playing a key role in this effort.

**"Our goal is that 100% of electronic manufacturing should happen in India. India will make semiconductor chips and finished product too. Our focus is clear — we want to build a world that doesn't stop or pause in times of crisis but keeps moving forward."**

Because of these policies, he said, India has attracted investments worth more than Rs 1.5 lakh crore in a very short time and many more projects are in the pipeline.

PM Modi also revealed plans to establish a semiconductor research centre at the Indian Institute of Space Sciences, *(Contd on page 5)*

## Top semiconductor CEOs laud PM Modi's vision

GREATER NOIDA, Sept 11 (IANS)

**LEADING** figures from the global semiconductor industry praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and vision for advancing India's semiconductor sector during their addresses at SEMICON India 2024, held here at the India Expo Mart on Wednesday.

Among those who spoke were Ajit Manocha, President & CEO of SEMI; Randhir Thakur, CEO & MD of Tata Electronics; Kurt Sievers, President & CEO of NXP Semiconductors;

Hidetoshi Shibata, CEO of Renesas Electronics; and Luc Van Den Hove, CEO of IMEC.

Ajit Manocha, President & CEO of SEMI, began his address by expressing admiration for the scale of the event. "I would start with the word WOW... based on the size and scale of this event. This is unprecedented and exponential," Manocha said.

He lauded PM Modi's exceptional leadership, noting, "His leadership has inspired not just India but the entire world." Manocha highlighted India's

rapid progress in the semiconductor sector, referencing PM Modi's pivotal role in kickstarting the industry.

"We were walking earlier, now we are running. Opportunities are there," he added.

Randhir Thakur, CEO & MD of Tata Electronics, thanked PM Modi for making the exhibition possible and noted India's strides in establishing its first commercial fab in Gujarat and an indigenous semiconductor plant in Assam.

*(Contd on page 5)*

# Iran's Pezeshkian seeks to cement ties with Iraq

BAGHDAD, Sept 11 (AP)

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IRAN'S reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian on Wednesday kicked off his first trip abroad as President, hoping to cement Tehran's ties to Baghdad as regional tensions increasingly pull both countries into the widening Middle East fray.

For Iran, its relationship with Iraq remains crucial for economic, political and religious reasons - something that has especially been true since the US-led 2003 invasion of Iraq toppled dictator Saddam Hussein, who launched a bloody, yearslong war against Iran in the 1980s.

Baghdad, meanwhile, has been trying to balance its relationship with Tehran, which backs powerful Shiite militias in the country, as well as with the United States, which maintains a force of 2,500 troops in Iraq that remain in battle with remnants of the once-dominant extremist Islamic State group.

The American troops remain both a literal and rhetoric target for Iran, particularly as Israel's nearly year-old war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip grinds on. Ahead of Pezeshkian's arrival, an explosion struck a site near Baghdad International Airport used by the US military on Tuesday night.

# Lokpal forms inquiry wing to probe graft cases after a decade

NEW DELHI, Sept 11 (PTI)

OVER a decade after a law governing it was passed, anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal has constituted an inquiry wing for conducting preliminary probe into graft-related offences committed by public servants.

The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013 (Act of 2013) came into force on January 1, 2014, when it received assent of the President. However, it began functioning only on March 27, 2019, following the appointment of its chairperson and members.

To discharge its statutory functions, Section 11 of the Act obligates the Lokpal to constitute an inquiry wing for the purpose of conducting preliminary inquiry into any offence punishable under the



Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, alleged to have been committed by the specified public servants and functionaries.

The full bench of Lokpal, in its meeting held on August 30, 2024, has decided to constitute an inquiry wing of the Lokpal, according to an official order.

Lokpal chairperson has been authorised to commence the selection process for appointment of specified number of suitable persons as officers and staff required to provide legis-

tical assistance in the inquiry wing, it said.

"Accordingly, in furtherance to the decision dated 30.08.2024 of the full bench of Lokpal of India, in exercise of administrative and financial power conferred as per Section 34 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013, an inquiry wing in terms of Sections 11 of the Act of 2013 is hereby constituted with immediate effect," the Lokpal's order, dated September 5 and issued by its chairperson Justice A M Khanwilkar, stated.

The full bench of the Lokpal in its meeting on August 6, 2024, had approved "organogram" providing for the staffing pattern and specified number of suitable officers and staff including for the inquiry wing, making it a part of the judicial wing, the order said.