

Trump-Harris Presidential Debate

Why In News

- In their first presidential debate, former United States President **Donald Trump** and Vice President **Kamala Harris** both accused each other of fuelling division in America. The candidates quickly dived into contentious issues, from migration and fracking to **Israel's war on Gaza**, but there were no groans or rapturous applause as the pair spoke without a live audience at the National Constitution Center (NCC) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

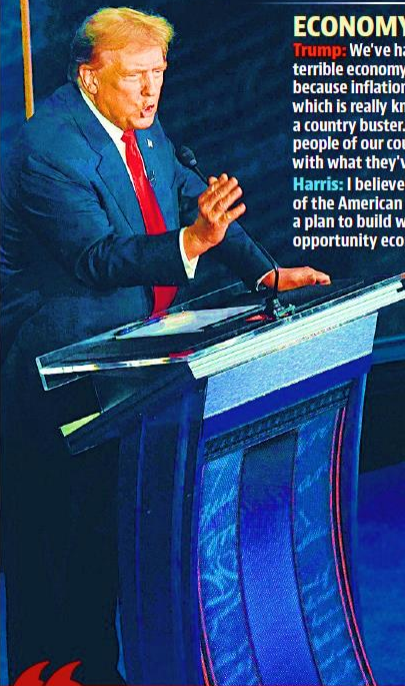



About The Debate

- **In a fiery 90 minutes**, Harris frequently rattled the former president with personal attacks that threw him off message and raised the temperature of this highly-anticipated contest.
- American voters broadly agree that **Vice President Kamala Harris** outperformed Donald Trump presidential debate, an independent research firm.
- Viewers of the debate voted in favour of **Harris, 63% to 37%**, saying she performed better. Prior to the debate, a poll by The New York Times and Siena College had shown both candidates were neck-and-neck in the race.

Contenders face off in fiery debate

Democratic president nominee Kamala Harris and her Republic opponent Donald Trump locked horns on key issues in their only presidential debate





ECONOMY

Trump: We've had a terrible economy, because inflation, which is really known as a country buster. The people of our country are dying with what they've done.

Harris: I believe in the dreams of the American people... [I] have a plan to build what I call an opportunity economy.

IMMIGRATION

Trump: We have millions of people pouring into our country from prisons and jails, from mental institutions and insane asylums.

Harris: Congress came up with a border security bill... You know what happened to that bill? Donald Trump called up some folks in Congress and said, 'kill the bill'.

ABORTION

Trump: It's the vote of the people now. It's not tied up in the federal government. I did a great service in doing it.

Harris: The government and Donald Trump, certainly, should not be telling a woman what to do with her body.

GAZA CONFLICT

Trump: She hates Israel. If she's president, I believe that Israel will not exist within two years from now.

Harris: It must end immediately... we need a ceasefire deal, and we need the hostages out.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Trump: I want the war to stop. I want to save lives. ... I think it's in the US's best interest.

Harris: If Donald Trump were president, Putin would be sitting in Kyiv right now.

CAPITOL ATTACK

Trump: I had nothing to do with that, other than they asked me to make a speech.

Harris: The [then] president incited a violent mob to attack our nation's capital.

GUN CONTROL

Trump: She has a plan to confiscate everybody's gun.

Harris: Tim Walz and I are both gun owners. We're not taking any of these guns away.

They're eating the dogs, the people that came in, they're eating the cats. They're eating the pets of the people that live there. - Donald Trump

It's important to remind the former president, you're not running against Joe Biden, you are running against me. - Kamala Harris

- Afterward, **96% of Harris supporters** who watched the debate said that their candidate had done a better job, **while only 69% of Trump supporters** said he did better.
- Democrat candidate is said to have baited her opponent into angry responses on issues ranging from abortion to foreign policy. **Mr Trump said** afterwards that this was his "**best debate**", **contrary** to what the flash polls have shown. Ms Harris' campaign has challenged him for a second debate in October.



- This marks a major shift from June's debate when President Joe Biden was in the running. **Back then, polls indicated, 67% to 33%**, that Mr Trump outperformed his rival.
- However, these polls only represent the views of the **debate watching public** and not the overall views of the full voting public.



- Viewers of the debate were closely divided over which candidate understands their problems better, **with 44% saying Ms Harris does and 40% voting for Mr Trump**.
- On the other hand, debate watchers also gave **Mr Trump a 23-point advantage** over who they think will handle immigration and the role of commander-in-chief better. They gave **Ms Harris a 9-point edge** on protecting democracy and abortion rights, the flash poll showed.