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MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2024
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DUBAI

BY KHITAM ALAMIR
Chief News Editor

Dubai Metro has transported more than 2.4 billion passengers across 4.3 million trips with an impressive 99.7 per cent punctuality rate, it was revealed yesterday by His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, as the urban transport operator celebrates 15 years of ridership.

Taking to his X account, Shaikh Mohammad stressed that Dubai is striving for 100 per cent punctuality rate.

"Punctuality is more than a culture; it's a virtue and a core part of our culture," Shaikh Mohammad added. "Dubai Metro exemplifies our city's commitment to quality, punctuality, and providing the best environment for living and working globally."

Global model

Also on his X account yesterday, Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, posted: "Dubai Metro reflects the emirate's ethos of quality, decisive leadership and ability to rapidly execute mega projects. A big thanks to the RTA team for their initiatives, which continue to strengthen Dubai's position as a global model for sustainable transportation."

SPECIAL REPORT P5

'METRO EXEMPLIFIES OUR COMMITMENT TO QUALITY'

- Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid



15
YEARS

of mass
urban
transit
completed
by Dubai
Metro

2.4b
riders carried
by the metro
across the
city since the
inaugural ride
on 09.09.2009

730,000 riders
the current average daily ridership as
against 20,000 on September 10, 2009

Harris, Trump to clash in high-stakes debate

The two will meet for
first time in what's
touted to be a
deal-clincher face-off

WASHINGTON

It will be the first time Kamala Harris and Donald Trump meet in person - and millions of Americans will get a ringside seat.

The Democratic vice president and Republican former president will face off in Philadelphia on Tuesday in their first - and possibly only - televised debate before what promises to be a nail-bitingly close 2024 election.

The high-stakes ABC debate will be a chance for US voters to finally see the two go head-to-head, after a month of shadow-boxing since President Joe Biden threw in the towel as candidate.

The gloves will be off in what is a critical test for both.

Harris, 59, has turbocharged and unified the Democratic party, and will now face an

opponent who has called her "crazy" and subjected her to racist and sexist taunts.

America's first female, Black and South Asian vice president has overhauled Trump's lead in the polls but insists she remains the "underdog" in a tight race. Knowing what's at stake, she is spending five days holed up in the nearby city of Pittsburgh preparing for the debate.

Make-it-or-break-it

The 78-year-old Trump is meanwhile expected to opt for an aggressive approach, after Harris's entry into the race upended his White House bid and turned him into the oldest candidate in US history.

"These are two very different candidates that have previously never met in person," Erin Christie, of the Rutgers University School of Communication and Information, told AFP. "So it will prove to be a very enlightening debate which could even be the make-it-or-break-it factor in the election."

-AFP

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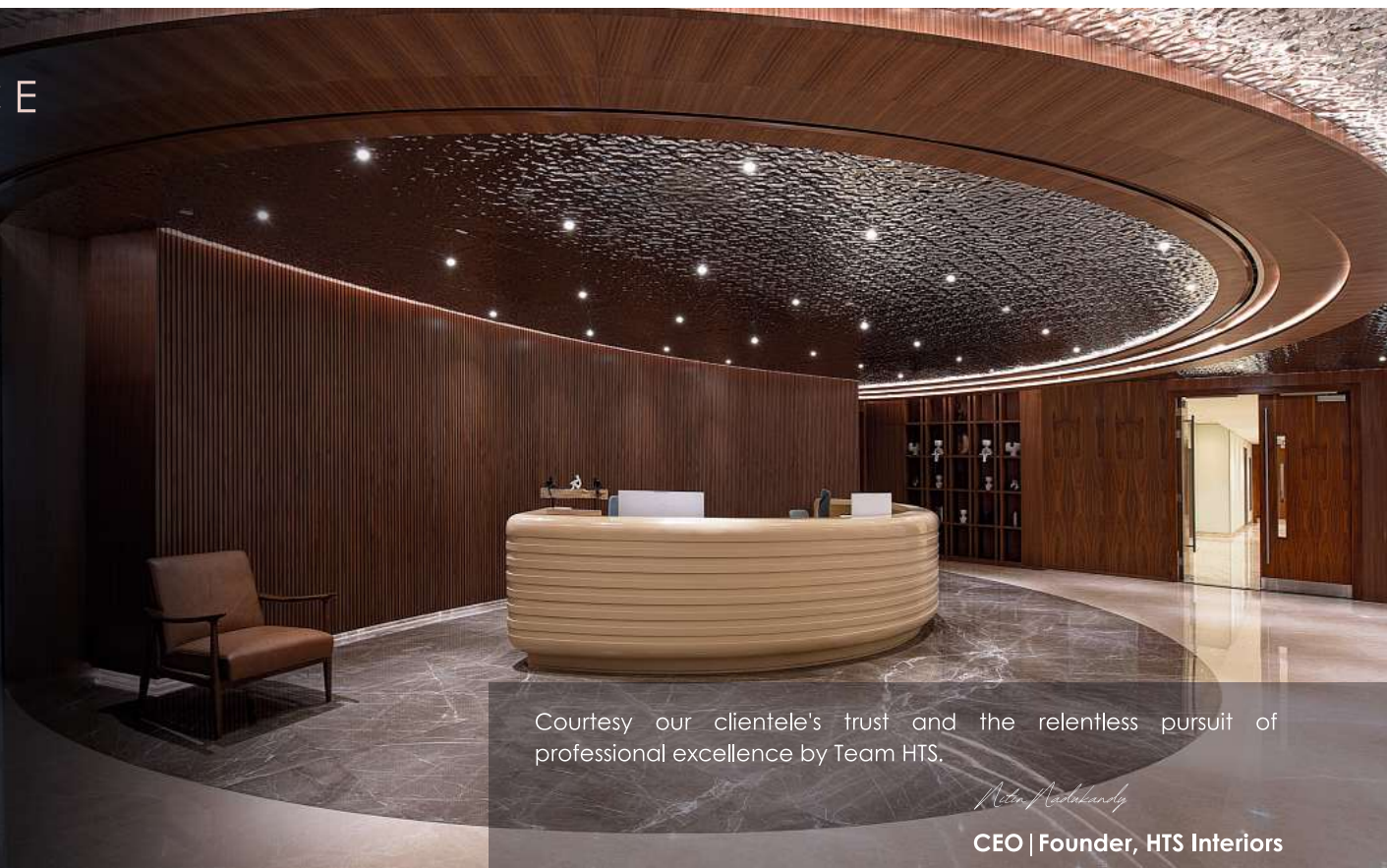


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