

Dear All,

Rishi Sunak will be sworn in as UK's Prime Minister around 1135 GMT in London. He will be UK's 57th Prime Minister. He is the first person of color to reside at 10, Downing Street. Here are some interesting points/thoughts on this journey:

1. Sunak is originally from the undivided Punjab province. His early family moved to Kenya and Tanzania in the early days and his parents moved to UK in the 1960s. This was not uncommon when hordes of Indians from east Africa moved to Britain in that era, before it became an inflow after Idi Amin and Uganda.
2. Sunak's dad was a GP (doctor) and worked for the NHS and his mother ran a chemist shop.
3. Sunak is the first non-white Prime Minister of UK; this is UK's Obama moment.
4. Sunak is the youngest PM in the last 200 years. Robert Banks Jenkin was the youngest so far in 1812 being 42 years old. David Cameron became PM at 43 and Tony Blair became PM at 43. He was groomed by William Hague.
5. His rise from MP to PM took 7 years, David Cameron took 9 years. He represents Richmond in Yorkshire.
6. Sunak studied at Oxford which has a tradition of producing Prime Ministers. Of the 57 Prime Ministers, 30 have studied at Oxford and 14 at Cambridge. David Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson, and Liz Truss studied at Oxford.
7. After Oxford, Sunak went to Stanford for an MBA where he met Akshata Murthy, the daughter of Narayan Murthy, Infosys founder. He worked in Goldman Sachs before setting up his own company.
8. He was the Chancellor during Covid and won respect for his handling of small business owner issues etc. during the period.
9. Sunak takes over when UK is at an all-time low, they have been like this since the Brexit vote 6 years ago. Inflation is at a 40 year high of 10.1%.
10. In his opening speech he said he will lead with integrity and humility and provide stability through a tough economic situation. He will need a good combination of all three.
11. He and his wife are the 222nd richest people in UK. He once had a green card. Many critics say that he cannot be in touch with reality with his wealth and position. Time will tell.
12. His first challenge comes on October 31 when he and the Chancellor Jeremy Hunt need to come up with a plan to bridge a hole of 40 billion pounds for UK.
13. The conservatives do not need to hold a general election till October 2025. This gives Sunak time, but it also means that he must develop into an election winning politician in the next three years.
14. Will Sunak last is a question most people ask, and the answer is what are the choices? The conservative party would not want a general election now, as they will lose.
15. Getting to 10 Downing Street after losing the party vote in September has been remarkable. As the opposition pointed out, Sunak has become PM without outlining a single policy. He will have to watch his back in his own party and watch the critics across the board.
16. Getting a plum job is half the battle, the way he will do the job will be closely scrutinized since he is a non-white. He gets into the job in a no hope situation and hence whatever he does, UK can hopefully get better.

Time will tell

Shiv