

### ■ **Ranil Wickremesinghe Takes Over as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka**

Ranil Wickremesinghe has taken over as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa administered the oath of office to the United National Party leader in Colombo on 12th May after Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned as the Prime Minister on 9th May following violent attacks by supporters on peaceful anti-government protesters. His resignation automatically dissolved the Cabinet leaving an administrative vacuum. Mr. Wickremesinghe has been reappointed in an effort to bring stability to the island nation in the midst of a debt crisis that has triggered severe shortages of fuel, food and other essentials. Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan government is negotiating a bailout package with the International Monetary Fund.

### ■ **Late Danish Siddiqui among Four Indians Honoured with Pulitzer Prize**