



SNAPSHOT OF FALSE NARRATIVES DURING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2025

Period: 9th to of May

Summary

In the aftermath of the elections, several misleading and unverified narratives gained traction on social media, directly targeting the NPP government and its leadership. These included a misattributed video aimed at discrediting President Dissanayake, claims of undue Indian and Tamil diaspora influence on policymaking, and speculative posts about internal divisions and leadership changes within the government. Though largely lacking verification, these narratives were amplified in ways that could erode public trust, reinforce ethnic fault lines, and portray political instability.

Introduction

The post-election period in Sri Lanka has created a volatile information environment, where political competition increasingly extends into the digital sphere. Social media platforms, particularly Facebook, have become critical arenas for shaping public perception, often through content that blurs the line between satire, speculation, and deliberate misinformation. Narratives emerging in this context not only reflect political rivalries but also tap into long-standing societal sensitivities, including ethnic divisions, suspicions of foreign influence, and concerns about leadership stability. Against this backdrop, understanding the nature and trajectory of these narratives is essential for assessing their potential impact on governance, political legitimacy, and social cohesion.

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