

Snapshot of False Narratives during the Local Government Elections 2025

Period: 9th of May

About the Project

The Strengthening Resilience against Disinformation in Sri Lanka project is co-funded by the European Union and implemented by Democracy Reporting International and Factum. The project aims to reinforce Sri Lanka's democratic and electoral frameworks and protect human rights by prioritizing inclusivity and responsible political discourse on social media through monitoring and debunking online harmful content. Leveraging collaborative efforts of civil society organizations in Sri Lanka, this initiative capacitates fact-checkers and media outlets, creates counter-narratives, and strengthens the technical expertise of the Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECSL).

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.



For access to the full report, please contact Paffrel Media at
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