

Snapshot of False Narratives during the Local Government Elections 2025

Period: 15th to 21st April 2025

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 the 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

The 2025 local government election campaigns have been relatively slow and lackluster thus far, with political engagement expected to intensify closer to Election Day. A significant trend observed during the reporting period was the targeted disinformation aimed at discrediting the ruling National People's Power (NPP) government. Despite the local scope of the elections, much of the political discourse was dominated by national-level issues, suggesting a blending of local and national narratives. Prominent events such as the arrest of Sivanesathurai Chandrakanthan alias 'Pilleyan,' the Easter Sunday attacks commemoration, and the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were leveraged as key narrative anchors.



For access to the full report, please contact Paffrel Media at
paffrelmedia@gmail.com

Disclaimer: This report was written by the PAFFREL as part of the Strengthening Resilience against Disinformation in Sri Lanka project. This publication was co-funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the PAFFREL and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union