

Snapshot of False Narratives during the Local Government Elections 2025

Period: 22nd to 28th 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

Online discourse surrounding the local government elections intensified during this period as Election Day approached. However, the dominant trend continued to be a focus on national-level incidents rather than local electoral issues. Key events such as the *Dalada Vandana* (Exposition of the Sacred Tooth Relic) and the murder of nationalist politician Dan Priyasad became focal points for political commentary and misinformation. Notably, efforts to discredit the government and President Anura Kumara Dissanayake through false narratives and manipulated media remained persistent. There were also efforts to discredit prominent opposition politicians such as MP Namal Rajapakse.



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