

Snapshot of False Narratives during the Local Government Elections 2025

Period: 29th April to 1st May 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

During the observed period, a significant increase in misinformation and disinformation was recorded. Key narratives included the deliberate misquotation of political leaders, the spread of false economic claims, the circulation of manipulated images linking political parties to criminal or extremist groups, and the promotion of unverified election predictions. These narratives were often strategically designed to mislead voters, influence public perception, and undermine trust in the electoral process. The widespread nature and potential impact of such content underscore the urgent need for stronger enforcement of media guidelines and public



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