

Snapshot of False Narratives during the Local Government Elections 2025

Period: 2nd to 3rd 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 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 post-May Day period saw a continued proliferation of misinformation and disinformation targeting political figures, media personnel, and the electoral process. Emerging narratives included the rise of politically charged satire, fabricated threats involving underworld figures, gendered disinformation campaigns, and the sustained circulation of false election data. While some narratives were overtly satirical, others blurred the line between fiction and plausible reality, creating confusion and potentially undermining public trust in democratic institutions.



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

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