

Snapshot of False Narratives during the Local Government Elections 2025

Period: 4th and 5th of May (Silent Period)

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 silent period, disinformation persisted and evolved, targeting political figures, economic issues, and the electoral process itself. Key narratives included false claims regarding IMF negotiations, fabricated statements attributed to politicians, doctored videos, and continued circulation of unofficial results. These efforts were clearly designed to influence voter behavior and erode trust in democratic institutions. The inability of social media platforms and the elections commission to adequately address and remove such content further compromised the integrity of the election period.



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

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