



Snapshot of False Narratives during the Local Government Elections 2025

Period: 6th of May (Election Day)

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

This report documents the spread of false narratives and disinformation observed on May 6th, 2025, the day of the local government elections. Despite strict regulations prohibiting campaigning and the dissemination of unofficial information during the silent period and on Election Day, numerous instances of misleading content were recorded. These included fabricated political affiliations, false election outcomes, distorted economic claims, doctored images, and unsubstantiated promises attributed to political figures. Much of this content was circulated by partisan or anonymous social media accounts, amplifying confusion and potentially influencing voter behavior. The report underscores the urgent need for real-time monitoring, enforcement of electoral regulations, and enhanced public awareness to preserve the integrity of the democratic process.



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

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