

Deep State and it's Global Impact

Author 2 [under guidance of]

Adv. Himangana Priya [Student]

LL.M in Bharati Vidyapeeth [Deemed to be University], New Law College, Pune.

Author 1


DR. JYOTI DHARM [Guide]

Dean faculty of law and Vice. Principal at New Law College, Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune.



<https://doi.org/10.55041/ijstmt.v2i5.259>

Cite this Article: Priya, A. H. (2026). Deep State and it's Global Impact. International Journal of Science, Strategic Management and Technology, 02(05). <https://doi.org/10.55041/ijstmt.v2i5.259>

License:  This article is published under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0), permitting use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author(s) and source are properly credited.

Abstract

We can define the “Deep State” as a well established network of commercial organization, intelligence agents and the government officials who are operating outside the effective control of the elected governments, it has become a concerning issue in the today’s world political and legal converse. It has created resonance in numerous authorities world-wide, including India, although it was first used to describe clandestine power structures in nations like the United States or Turkey. I am a post-graduate cyber law student at New Law College, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune, my aim in this article is to find out whether the deep state is a phenomenon that threatens democratic processes, damages the rule of law, and uses the digital media, particularly the social media and artificial intelligence, to manipulate public opinion and destabilize the functioning of the government. According to my analysis, the Deep State has a large scope beyond political influence and here, in this article I am looking it from the perspectives of digital sovereignty, national security, and cyber law.

This article will help in understanding the democratic system's structural weaknesses which additionally, will help the policymakers, diplomats, and others to create a more precise framework for handling both domestic and international crises and to protect the democratic values from the uncontrolled institutional power.

1. Introduction

Conventionally, the term "deep state" refers to an imperceptible layer of deeply ingrained power actors that operate beneath the constitutional surface of governance. The Indian interpretation of this theory appears as "the extensive use of government agencies toward political ends," whereby the investigative, intelligence, and enforcement bodies are strategically repurposed to consolidate political authority or to suppress dissent. Now, according to Josy Joseph's *The Silent Coup: A History of India's Deep State*¹ from a conceptual standpoint, this goes against the constitutionalism premise, which requires that government’s functions continue to be visible, reviewable, and answerable to the people.

• ¹Joseph, J. (2021) *The silent coup: A history of India’s Deep State*. Chennai, India: Context, an imprint of Westland Publications Private Limited.

According to the 1950 Constitution, the Indian legal system upholds checks and balances through media freedom, legislative supervision, and judicial review. Still many of the times, these techniques constantly face the automatic influence of unelected actors, such as politicized police agencies, bureaucratic lethargy, or the deceptive use of cyber tools to form a social agreement.

2. Understanding the Deep State: Global Dimensions

The global dimensions of the deep state is a functional mechanism rather than a legal entity. Also the mechanism of the deep state can be defined by knowing it's characteristics that is secrecy, continuity and the capacity which leads to coercion. Now, at the global level it has been identified on the basis of it is three important frameworks and they are as follows:

1. Bureaucratic Entrenchment: Bureaucrats who use selective enforcement or policy-manipulation-to-oppose-elected-power.

2. Corporate and Financial Influence: Elites who dominate regulatory areas or finance the political campaigns to shape policy according to their will.

3. Ideological and Cyber Networks:

Here the people use the information warfare and technology to dominate narratives, influence the public opinion, and weaken opponents.

According to an analysis in the Shabda Blog (2024), this variant of the deep state operates through psychological and cultural control mechanisms that molds the people's ideas, aspirations, and collective memory, transcending formal institutions and becoming "distributed rather than centralized." This suggests a shift from the conventional covert to algorithmic influence and observation.

3. The Indian Context: Institutional Deep State

As we all know that India was ruled by the Britishers in the earlier times, thus, India's administrative structure was designed in such a way that it is to be shielded from direct political influence, which created a hierarchical and opaque administrative culture while guaranteeing bureaucratic continuity. This developed over decades into what Josy Joseph refers to as a "non-military security establishment," which includes the Income Tax Department, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Intelligence Bureau (IB), and the Enforcement Directorate (ED). But presently, these organizations are sometimes accused of taking selective, politically motivated actions. Despite having constitutional legitimacy, these agencies frequently fall somewhere between executive control and operational independence. Their acts run the potential of turning lawful enforcement into tools of political pressure when they are applied selectively, sowing the seeds of a semi-institutionalized deep state².

While elected officials come and go every few years, career diplomats are firmly ingrained in the government and have a far deeper understanding of how it operates at the grassroots level than most politicians. Politicians depend on bureaucrats to carry out their agendas, which can be mislead and derailed by the bureaucracy, and they can frequently tell them what is feasible for them. Nevertheless, nobody is blind to the bureaucracy.

4. The Deep State and Democratic Destabilization

-
- ² Joseph, J. (2021) The silent coup: A history of India's Deep State. Chennai, India: Context, an imprint of Westland Publications Private Limited.

The deep state's ability to erode democracy's fundamental content while preserving its procedural way is its primary threat. This happens as a result of the deliberate manipulation of public opinion, the media, and the law.

4.1 Rule of Law Undermined

Due process of law under article 21 of the Indian constitution and equality before the law which comes under article 14 of the Indian constitution are one of the essential components of democracy's legal framework. But in spite of that the constitutional integrity can be compromised when judicial appointments are politically influenced or investigative agencies are selectively biased. Also deep-state tendencies can undermine liberty with the help of law by misusing the penal measures like defamation, anti-terror, and laws that criminalises acts endangering the unity and sovereignty of our country.

4.2 Economic Entrenchment

Another aspect of the deep state is the relationship between concentrated capital and governmental policies. An environment of policy capture one that prioritizes concentrated elites over the general welfare is created by unequal lobbying power, opaque election funding, and the privatization of digital infrastructure. The constitutional goal of equality in political participation is legally challenged by this. advocating for regulatory frameworks and market access that are advantageous to companies in interested nations. For instance, pressuring nations to let imports into their agricultural markets during WTO trade discussions.

4.3 Regime Change

The USA is often alleged "century of regime change" operations across several countries. Recently, the overthrow of the Sheikh Hasina dictatorship in Bangladesh, for instance, is being attributed to the deep state of the United States. Here, senior Awami League party sources claim that at least 3 ministers in Sheikh Hasina's cabinet, Private Investment and Industry Adviser Salman F. Rahman, Law Minister Anisul Haq, and Minister of State for Information Mohammad Arafat were "subverted" and directed to act against the government's interests in the crucial weeks leading up to the regime's fall. Hasina resigned on August 5, 2024. And on August 13, 2024, Rahman and Haq were abruptly detained from Sadarghat in Dhaka; Arafat's whereabouts are still a mystery. Arafat may have used Western contacts to escape overseas, according to a number of Awami League insiders and officers in Bangladesh's security system, which ultimately de-established the government in Bangladesh.

4.4 Think Tanks

The governments' preferred political changes are made possible by the usage of think tanks, non-governmental organizations, and biased media. Colour revolutions organized nonviolent public uprisings with the goal of overthrowing and discrediting a government.

For instance, the colour revolutions in Tulip in Kyrgyzstan (2005), Roses in Georgia (2003), and Orange in Ukraine (2004), all these movements were viewed by Russia and China as western backed movements. Also, Imran Khan, the former prime minister of Pakistan, also claimed that foreign forces were trying to overthrow his administration.

4.5 Conflict and Wars

The provision of weapons, ammunition, and military technology greatly benefits defense businesses. In order to create demand for their weapons, corporations promote their interests and drag countries into conflict.

4.6 Surveillance

The National Security Agency (NSA) of the United States conducted monitoring in developing nations such as those in Asia and Africa, as Edward Snowden disclosed. Also it is alleged by many Asian countries like Iran, China etc.

4.7 Media and Narrative

In order to put pressure on the government over human rights, reports from Western media outlets distort some Indian issues, such as religious intolerance in a secular country like India and also Kashmir issues. The Indian government was accused by Amnesty International of enacting legislation that discriminate against religious minorities, which was also a narrative set by the media at international level.

4.8 Cyber Influence

Businesses with significant market dominance, such as Google, WhatsApp and Facebook, have an impact on national laws pertaining to taxation and data protection.

4.9 Civil Society Movements

By funding the civil society organizations like Greenpeace India which chooses activities like to oppose coal and energy projects in India on the grounds of human rights, climate change, or their purported involvement in the farmers' movement which somewhere helps in creating democratic destabilization in our country. One must protest if anything seems wrong to him but should not hamper others fundamental rights on the name of protest. According to an Intelligence Bureau analysis, "foreign-funded" NGOs like Greenpeace have a 2-3% detrimental effect on GDP growth of our nation.

4.10 Damaging International Image

In order to create a negative impression, there are some nations with vested interests portray Indian ethnic people as villains or slums in their documentation or films to create a negative image of the country. Additionally, national level unfounded accusations against one another are also there. For example, Canada claims that India was involved in the murder of terrorists from Khalistan groups in Canada only.

5. Cyber and Social Media Dimensions: The Rise of the “Digital Deep State”

5.1 Social Media as Instrument of Control

In today's digital era, the social media platforms like WhatsApp, X, YouTube, and Facebook³ with the help of algorithmic influence, data governance, AI and other hierarchical volunteer networks co-ordinate fake propaganda, communal polarization and also surveillance linked troll campaigns, which is helping to establish the deep state mechanism to work more effectively.

Additionally, there is a more general shift in which digital ecosystems develop into extensions of the state apparatus, able to stifle opposition and manufacture consent. Election integrity and the right to free expression under Article 19(1)(a) of Indian Constitution are under an unprecedented legal threat due to the combination of political message with algorithmic advertising, AI-driven voice clones, and deep fakes, people are not able to differentiate between the fake and real ones.

-
- ³ BANDYOPADHYAY, A. (2025) The Digital Leviathan: Inside the BJP it cell's architecture of consent, coercion, and control, debaprasad. Available at: <https://debaprasad.wordpress.com/2025/12/20/the-digital-leviathan-inside-the-bjp-it-cells-architecture-of-consent-coercion-and-control/> (Accessed: 06 May 2026).

5.2 Regulation, Privacy, and the Shrinking Public Sphere

Digital platforms are now using surveillance capitalism to gather enormous databases by asking cookies consent from the users. Furthermore, powerful players can easily manipulate both content and context by flooding cyberspace with false information, thanks to information asymmetry. This "information warfare" undermines epistemic trust, delegitimizing dissent and making truth debatable for the state.

5.3 International Implications

India's experience coincides with global trends, as cyber operations blur differences between domestic propaganda and foreign influence. During several election cycles, coordinated inauthentic behaviour, bot networks, and disinformation farms have all been linked to systematic efforts. The legal mechanisms to tackle these such as the IT Act, 2000, and intermediary guidelines to remain inadequate, either overbroad or under-enforced.

6. Legal Challenges and Regulatory Prospects

6.1 Constitutional Safeguards

The constitution of India had given various kinds of constitutional safeguards to protect the citizens from the administrative over-reach, some of the safeguards are as follows:

Judicial review, Fundamental rights and the freedom of press often have a check and balance over the functioning of the authorities.

But, inspite of this the deep state is continuously functioning in the environment where there is an absence of a legal remedy or where the legal remedies are being delayed. The political insulation and the secrecy are another major reason of deep state to exist. Political capture could be countered by empowering independent statutory regulators in the digital sphere.

6.2 Cyber Jurisprudence and Accountability

Due to sudden rise in the technology, there are new issues arising regarding the accountability, the speech control and the algorithmic bias. These issues must be addressed by both the government as well as the private companies by creating accountability frameworks to recognise and punish the possible abusers of the information technology.

Now, Indian courts have started to recognize the threat posed by false information. For example, High Court rulings have called for more stringent regulation of communal digital content, but there is still a lack of comprehensive jurisprudence that connects misinformation to constitutional harms. According to the legal specialists, the digital transparency legislation requires the algorithmic audits to guarantee adherence to the democratic ideals.

7. Conclusion

The deep state shows a regular ongoing conflict between the visible democracy and the unnoticeable control over it, it acts as a metaphor as well as a lived reality also. This conflict manifests itself in a number of areas in India, including corporate finance, bureaucracy, enforcement, and the digital realm. Thus, the legislative approach to similar breach must maintain a striking balance between the security of our nation as well as the transparency of the government, without laundering. Also, it must empower the individuals regarding the digital knowledge.

Now, the propaganda which are created with the help of Artificial Intelligence, Algorithmic impulses, and also the data manipulations are one of the new generation issues created because of the shift from the analog bureaucracy to the modern day cyber governance. The merger of the state and the commercial entities creates such an authorization which can lead to create a trouble addition to state-overreach.

For a democracy to be strong enough it is necessary that the institutions functioning should be accountable, they must follow ethical technology for the governance and should be determined to be free from any kind of suppression. The Indian constitutional structure still has the institutional power to thwart deep state invasions if it is rejuvenated by principled enforcement. Eventually, this demands an independent judiciary along with a visionary legislative reform which uses the rule of law and the power of openness to challenge and reform the old or retired structures.

References

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Silent_Coup:_A_History_of_India%27s_Deep_state
- <https://blog.shabda.co/2024/11/16/what-is-the-deep-state/>
- <https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/deep-state-and-its-impacts>
- <https://debaprasad.wordpress.com/2025/12/20/the-digital-leviathan-inside-the-bjp-it-cells-architecture-of-consent-coercion-and-control/>
- <https://www.republicworld.com/india/deep-state-is-silent-but-not-inactive-the-chakravayuh-around-india>
- <https://goachronicle.com/the-indian-deep-state-the-silent-war-to-unseat-prime-minister-modi/>
- <https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/deep-state-and-its-impacts>
- <https://thecsrjournal.in/us-deep-state-subverted-key-ministers-sheikh-hasina-government-regime-chang>
- <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/08/06/bangladesh-prime-minister-hasina-resigns-amid-mass-protests>