

Tarseel

An initiative by Tarseel, Department of Journalism, Bharati College.

Faculty's Note

The word "conflict" is one of the elements of a news story, and perhaps the most important and influential among the 10-12 elements of a news story. It has long been the interest of readers and media personnel alike. Conflict is not restricted to people against people; there can be conflict with animals, nature, the environment, or even the frontier of space, too. All forms of conflicts, such as physical or emotional, open, overt or even ideological conflict, have remained the cornerstone of media reporting. The aforementioned various forms of conflicts are what the media has been raising quite frequently, so that readers/viewers can understand their value and take informed decisions.

However, there is another kind of conflict, which is not so obvious among the readers/viewers of the media. That conflict is between the media organisations and the government establishment, which has been ongoing ever since the genesis of the media and the government. Since the birth of media in India, when James Augustus Hicky first published the newspaper, the Bengal Gazette, which got shut down due to conflict with the then British Government, the media has been in constant conflict with the successive governments. Obviously, the nature of the conflict between the media and the British Government was very brutal throughout their rule in India. But it was hardly a miss ever between the media and the various governments after India's independence. We have seen the darkest, brutal treatment meted out by the government to the media during the emergency period in India.

One can argue that a particular or the present media era is undergoing a severe conflict, which is a subjective analysis, but what is not going to change in the coming years is neither the above-mentioned conflicts nor the conflict between the media and the establishments, because of the very nature of the media and the government, which are always on opposite sides.

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The Slow-Motion Tragedy of Global Ecocide

Vani
 1st Year

The history of modern warfare is written in blood, but its future is being buried in the poisoned soil of a dying planet.

Despite witnessing environmental destruction in real time, we are often the last to demand accountability for the 'silent casualties' of conflict. While political strategies dominate headlines, a deeper war is being waged against the systems that sustain life.

This is the age of ecocide, where the victim has no voice and the perpetrator hides behind the idea of collateral damage. Journalism has long overlooked the environmental damage caught in the crossfire. We chase visible destruction because it fits the 24-hour news cycle, but ignore slower disasters like chemical leaks or deforestation. For families returning home after a ceasefire, the war does not end. It continues in their soil, water, and air. Recent data shows an environment under siege. According to Uacrisis.org and Odessa Journal, in Ukraine, over 10,885 eco crimes have caused the loss of 1.6 million hectares of forest, with reconstruction expected to produce 741 million tonnes of CO2. Reports from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and satellite analyses indicate that as of late 2025, in Gaza, the destruction of 97 percent of tree crops and 61 million tonnes of debris has damaged the land for generations. These are not isolated cases. Around 40 percent of internal conflicts are linked to natural resources, leaving behind long-term threats like contaminated groundwater and poisoned ecosystems.

Vandana Shiva describes this silence as 'anthropocentric arrogance,' where the media ignores environmental destruction and enables militaries to 'colonize the future.' George Monbiot notes that what is visible is not always what is important, highlighting how environmental crises are often downplayed. As Greta Thunberg has pointed out, the response is often "too quiet and too late."

Journalism treats war as a record of victories, but the land is a casualty that cannot retreat. We focus on immediate tragedies while ignoring the slow collapse of life-supporting systems. We must confront the truth written in scarred earth: The Earth held its silence, not because it lacked a voice to cry, But because we refused to listen while it was left to die.

If we continue to ignore these silent victims, we risk winning wars but losing the world we depend on. Our responsibility is not just to report who won, but what has been lost forever.

MEDIA & CONFLICT

