

CHAPTER TWELVE

Media and the Existing News Narratives in Kashmir Conflict

ARIF HUSSAIN NADAF

.....

The political crises in a conflict situation are ‘demonstrated’ through the narratives of media (Cottle 2008). The media in a conflict situation facilitates the dissemination of existing political ideologies, has a profound impact on policy-making and influences the process of conflict escalation and resolution (Seib 2005). The conflict in Kashmir region is often presented with three distinctive narratives in the news media in India, Pakistan, and the local media in the region. In a protracted conflict like Kashmir that involves persistent competing political rhetoric, it becomes essential to understand the dynamics of news narratives that position themselves in the existing political situation.

Ever since the beginning of media’s evolution in Kashmir region, the regional political dynamics have played a determinant role in shaping the local press in the region. The decentralized political regionalism has been one of the fundamental characteristics of politics