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TNN Feb 17, 2012, 03.48AM IST



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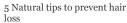
NEW DELHI: A naval spy drone, a Searcher-II of Israeli-origin, crashed into a hill while returning from a surveillance sortie during an exercise at Visakhapatnam on Thursday afternoon. "There were no casualties or damage on the ground. A Board of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the exact reason behind the crash," said an officer.

With UAVs emerging as a modern force-multiplier in modern-day warfare, Indian armed forces have inducted well over 100 drones, both for their snooping as well as targeting capabilities, since the 1999 Kargil conflict.

Compared to the many more inductions in the Army and the IAF, the Navy currently has eight Searcher-II and four Herons, which are being used for maritime surveillance up to 200 nautical miles, with another two Herons being ordered from Israel. The armed forces have also inducted some Israeli Harpy and Harop 'killer' UAVs, which are capable of loitering over targets before they explode into them.

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Readers' opinions (4) Sort by: Newest | Oldest GOOD (BOY) 17 Feb, 2012 04:56 AM DO WHAT??????????????PY ON NAXALS? JUNK YOUR ITALIAN ROYALTY INDIA digiloveslicking (digiville) Accidents do and will continue to happen. Real wisdom lies in the ability to learn from them. This sort of happenings are an institutional learning curve for the airforce. There is no need to be disheatened. npk (B'lore) replies to GOOD 17 Feb, 2012 11:03 AM even Sukhoi 30 MKI has crossed and IBN raise this question...if you have brain just think yourself...did the Russian MKI fell or the one that serviced by Indias or [India has got rights to prepare it, fell down?] If so you have who serviced those...now tell me did the drone fallen was serviced by Indian people? when did it handed over to India? How long were the Indians used it?....why unnecessary Italian Royalty India comes into picture here? Was the operation training given to the end user? If so was the fellow first time user, where he might have committed the error?....just simply don't shoot blind. bmbx70 (India) replies to digiloveslicking 17 Feb, 2012 06:57 AM Bull's eye.

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