

INS Viraat

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In News: Recently, Supreme Court ordered a “status quo” with regard to the dismantling of India’s decommissioned aircraft carrier, INS Viraat, at the Alang shipbreaking yard in Gujarat.

About INS Viraat

- INS Viraat was originally commissioned by the British Royal Navy as HMS Hermes on 18 November 1959, 15 years after she was laid down in June 1944.
- INS Viraat served as the flagship of the Royal Navy’s task force during the Falkland Islands campaign in 1982 and was commissioned from active duty in 1985.
- It played a major role in Operation Jupiter in 1989 during the Sri Lankan Peacekeeping operation.
- It is the second Centaur-class aircraft carrier which was in service for 30 years before being decommissioned in March 2017.
- The ship’s **Motto** was the Sanskrit phrase ‘Jalamev Yashya, Balamev Tasya’ which means ‘who controls the sea is the powerful’.
- The ship was also deployed during Operation Parakram (2001-02) following the terror attack on the Indian Parliament.
- It has participated in various international joint exercises like Exercise Malabar (USA), Exercise Varuna (French), Naseem-Al-Bahar (Oman Navy).
- It holds the world record as mentioned in the Guinness Book of records for being the longest serving warship of the world.

Warship played a major role in different operations

- **Operation Jupiter:** As a part of Indian Peace Keeping Operations in Sri Lanka in the wake of the breakdown of

the Indo- Sri Lankan Accord of 1986

- **Operation Parakram:** Followed after the terrorist attack on Indian Parliament.
- **Operation Vijay:** The Ship played a key role in creating a blockade against Pakistan during the Kargil War in 1999.