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Q:- Role of Supreme Court in strengthening the US Constitution.

Answer: Introduction:-

The supreme court of United States is the apex judicial body and the final interpreter of the US Constitution. In a federal system where power is divided between federation and state governments, the Supreme Court play vital role in maintaining the balance of power and ensuring the unity of federation. Through its authority of Judicial Review, it has acted as:

- The guardian of the Constitution.
- Protector of the fundamental rights.
- Arbitrator of disputes between states and federal govt.

Role of Supreme Court:-

1) Guardian of the Constitution

The Supreme Court ensures that both the federal and states governments acts within their constitutional limits. Whenever a law or executive action violates the Constitution, the court has the

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has the right to declare it unconstitutional. This ensures that no branch of government - federal or state - exceed its limits.

Article 06:- Supreme Court maintains the Supremacy of the constitution as the supreme law of the land. (Article 06, clause 02).

Marbury V Madison case:

The principle of Judicial review was established in this case by Chief Justice "John Marshall". Which made Judiciary more powerful and part of the government.

John Marshall affirmed that

"It is emphatically the duty of Judicial department to say what the law is".

2) Balancing Federal and State powers:-

The US Constitution divides power between the central government and the states.

The Supreme Court interpret these powers and solve disputes to prevent conflicts and maintain harmony between the

under the same constitutional law.

- It prevent fragmentation of the legal system and promote national integration.

Brown v Board of Education case:

Supreme Court ended racial segregation in this case, ensuring equal rights for all under federal law.

This decision become a cornerstone of the civil rights movement.

### 3) Protection of fundamental laws / Rights

The Supreme Court serves as the guardian of individual rights. Through its decision and power it prevent both state and federal government from violating citizens constitutional rights. This protection enhances citizens' trust in federal & States structure, and strengthens national unity.

Cases in Which Supreme Court reverse the laws

- In 1966, Protected the rights of accused.
- In 1973, Expanded the rights of privacy.
- In 2015, Legalized Same-Sex marriage.

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two level governments.

State Sovereignty:-

It protects the states sovereignty when the federal government overreaches.

Federal Supremacy:-

When states attempt to weaken the national authority it upholds federal supremacy.

These balancing acts keep federal strong and cohesive.

McCulloch v Maryland case:

In this case the court upheld the implied powers of congress and denied the right of states to tax federal institutions. which strengthen the federal authority.

Q4) Ensuring Uniformity of Law Across States:

In a federation, uniform interpretation of the constitutional laws is essential for the unity.

The Supreme court provides final and authoritative interpretations of the constitutional and federal law.

- It ensures that all states operate under

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Through such ruling, the Court ensures that the federal government upholds same fundamental rights for all Americans.

### 5) Arbiter of Inter-State and Federal Disputes

Supreme Court play role of an Arbiter in disputes between states and states with the federal government.

Article III, Section 02:

Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in such cases.

Example:

Disputes over river water rights, state boundaries or federal regulations are often resolved by the Court constitutional interpretation.

### 6) Promoting the principle of Separation of Power

The United States federal system is based on the separation of power among the legislative, executive and judicial branches.

Supreme Court, through the judicial review checks the excesses of the other

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two branches and prevent

- authoritarianism

- legislative tyranny.

United States V. Nixon Case.

In 1974 the Court ordered President Nixon to hand over tapes in the watergate scandal, declaring that even the President is not above the law. This verdict upholds the rule of law, a foundation for a stable federation.

## 7) Interpretation of the constitution.

The Supreme Court has adopted the constitution to meet the needs of changing time through judicial interpretation.

The "Constitution of 1787" allows the Court to reinterpret constitutional provisions according to contemporary circumstances, ensuring the federal system remain flexible and effective.

Brown V. Board of Education case:

In Brown V. Board of Education case

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the court interpreted the equal protection clause to strike down the segregation laws in 1954, which was previously uphelded in Plessy V. Ferguson case in 1896.

### Impact of Supreme Court on Federation Strength.

#### Unity in Diversity:

Supreme Court ensures unity of the diverse states of US by the conformation of constitutional Uniformity.

#### Clarity on Constitution:

The Supreme Court decisions provide clarity of question in Constitution.

#### Political Stability:

Judiciary neutrality in conflicts maintain equilibrium between states and the federal center.

#### Confidence of the Public:

Protection of the individual rights built confidence in federal institutions.

## Criticism on Judiciary:

### 1) Super legislature!

The Judicial activism allows the court to act as a "Super legislature" because it can reverse the laws of executive and legislature, along with the interpretation of constitution according to the situation.

## Conclusion:-

The Judiciary (Supreme Court) has been the basic pillar of American Federalism. Through the power of judiciary review, it has maintained the supremacy of constitution, safeguarded citizens rights and interpreting according to the situation, the judiciary transformed the United State constitution into a cohesive, flexible and durable federation.