**\_Layout.cshtml File In ASP.Net MVC Application**

* When you create an ASP.NET MVC Web application in Visual Studio 2015 or later versions, a \_Layout.cshtml file is automatically added in the **Views/Shared** folder.
* This file represents the layout that you can apply to the views of the application.
* This \_Layout.cshtml file contains the basic structure of a view.
* While developing an application, you can also modify the \_Layout.cshtml based on your requirements.
* Mostly we create **header, navbar and footer** in **master page (\_Layout.cshtml)** file, because all the views have these 3 things **header, navbar and footer**.
* While developing an ASP.NET MVC Web application, sometime you might require creating your custom layout
* Creating a layout in Visual Studio is similar to creating a view.
* By default, the name of the layout file is preceded by the underscore (\_) character.
* The extension of a layout file is .cshtml

**You can display unique content associated with a view using the following methods:**

* **@RenderBody():** Allows you to define a placeholder in the layout to insert the main content of the view.
* **@RenderSection():** Allows you to display a section specified in the view.

You can use the **@RenderBody() method** to define a placeholder in the layout that needs to be inserted in the main content of the view.

While using the **@RenderBody() method**, you should remember that, you can use it **only once** in a layout.

**Specifying a Layout for a View**

* While developing an ASP.NET MVC Web application, you can also specify a layout for either a particular view or for all the views.
* You can specify a layout for a view by using the Layout property.

**Following code snippet shows specifying a layout for a view:**

@{

Layout = "~/Views/Shared/CustomLayout.cshtml";

}

* In above code, the CustomLayout.cshtml file is specified as the layout for a view available in the application.
* You can also specify a particular layout for all the views available in your application by using the Layout property in the **\_ViewStart.cshtml** file.
* This file is available under the **Views** folder.
* When you create an ASP.NET MVC Web application in Visual Studio, the \_ViewStart.cshtml file is created by default under the Views folder.
* This file specifies the default layout to be used for the views available.