What is XML?

XML stands for extensible markup language .As the name itself says we can create our own markup required for our business purposes using XML.

If you are familiar with HTMl then you know that HTML provides a predefined set of elements that add special meaning to the data that they wrap.

For example:

John will be interpreted by the web browsers like internet explorer or chrome in bold.

<H1> will display the text in bigger and bold font.

So HTML adds presentation value to the data it wraps and it has predefined set of elements.

Where as XML does not have any predefined elements ,it allows us to create our own XML.Using XML we can define our own markup.

For Example:

If we work for an ecommerce application we create a order XML which will have the orderId ,lineItems ,Shipping Address etc

Similary if we work on a news portal we can create NewsML which carry the headlines,political information as well as sports data.

Applications can then use this xml to save it ,manipulate it and display it to the end user or even exchange this information with other applications .i.e the power of XML.

Summary:

XML which stands for Extensible mark up language ,
unlike HTML does not have any predefined set of el
ements .It allows us to create our own markup lang
uage and elements so that our applications can use
 the data how ever they want and they can do what
ever they want to do with the data very easily.