

## Unit-IV

### String Manipulation and Regular Expression

What is a String?

A string is a sequence of letters, numbers, special characters and arithmetic values or combination of all.

Everything inside quotes, single ( ' ' ) and double ( " " ) in PHP is treated as string.

Creating Strings: There are two ways of creating strings in PHP.

1. **Single-quote strings:** This type of strings does not processes special characters inside quotes.

e.g.

```
<?php
//single-quote strings
$site = 'Welcome to GC Hamirpur';
echo $site;
?>
```

Output:

Welcome to GC Hamirpur

```
<?php
//single-quote strings
$site = 'GC Hamirpur';
echo 'Welcome to $site';
?>
```

Output:

Welcome to \$site

- because single-quote strings in PHP does not processes special characters. Hence, the string is unable to identify the '\$' sign as start of a variable name.

2. **Double-quote strings:** Double-quote strings in PHP is capable of processing special characters.

e.g.

```
<?php
//double-quote strings
echo "Welcome to GC Hamirpur \n";
$site = "GC Hamirpur";
echo "Welcome to $site";
?>
```

Output:

```
Welcome to GC Hamirpur
Welcome to GC Hamirpur
```

- double-quote strings is processing the special characters according to their properties. The '\n' character is not printed and is considered as a new line. Also instead of the variable name \$site, "GC Hamirpur" is printed.

### **Escape Sequences:**

The character beginning with a backslash ("\") are treated as escape sequences and are replaced with special characters. e.g.

- "\n" is replaced by new line
- "\t" is replaced by a tab space
- "\\$" is replaced by a dollar sign
- "\\ " is replaced by a backslash
- "\" is replaced by a double quote
- "\"" is replaced by a single quote

### **Built in String Functions:**

- **strlen() function:** This function is used to find the length of a string. This function accepts the string as argument and return the length of number of characters in the string.
- **strrev() function:** This function is used to reverse a string. This function accepts a string as argument and returns its reversed string.
- **str\_replace() function:** This function takes three strings as arguments. The third argument is the original string and the first argument is

replaced by the second one. i.e. it replaces all occurrences of the first argument in the original string by second argument.

- **trim() function:** This function allows us to remove whitespaces or strings from both sides of a string.
- **strpos():** This function searches for a specific text within a string. If a match is found, the function returns the character position of the first match. If no match is found, it will return FALSE.