The Output Operator

The symbol << is called the insertion operator or the output operator. It inserts objects into the output stream named on its left. We usually use the cout output stream, which ordinarily refers to the computer screen. So cout<<"INDIA"; would display INDIA on the screen.

An operator is something that performs an action on one or more objects. The output operator << performs the action of sending the value of the expression listed on its right to the output stream listed on its left. Since the direction of this action appears to be from right to left, the symbol << was chosen to represent it. This remind the user an arrow pointing to the left.

The reason cout is called a stream is that output send to it flows like a stream. If several things are sent to cout, they fall in line, one after the other as they are dropping into the stream. Then they are displayed on the screen in that order.

Example:

```
#include <iostream.h>

void main()
{
    cout<<"INDIA";
    return 0;
}
```

This program will display the message INDIA.