

'IISc, Infosys may be on itinerary'

Expert says CTBT unlikely on Clinton agenda

BY JAIDEEP V.G.

CLINTON 'VISIT' TO CITY

Bangalore, Feb. 27: President Bill Clinton's March visit to India is likely to be of a "cosmetic" nature with the only concrete result being a possible joint declaration against terrorism in the sub-continent, according to Prof. S. Rajagopal, expert on international and strategic affairs at the National Institute for Advanced Studies. Prof. Rajagopal told *The Asian Age* that the Indian Institute

of Science and software companies like Infosys would feature on President Clinton's visit if he chose to visit Bangalore.

According to Prof. Rajagopal, who is a Homi Bhabha visiting professor at the department of international and strategic studies at the institute, talks on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty are unlikely to feature prominent-

ly on Mr Clinton's agenda.

"Considering the US is yet to ratify the treaty, it would be embarrassing for him to ask India to sign it. Moreover, the next conference on the treaty is scheduled for 2001, I doubt anything will happen till then," the former Atomic Energy Commission secretary and head of the technical liaison cell of the department of atomic energy

in Paris said. "And since Mr Clinton's term in office is coming to an end, it is unlikely that he will press on a matter like this," he added.

Prof. Rajagopal said India should not discuss US sanctions separately, but should convince the American President that India be included as part of the Non-Proliferation Treaty to be formally recognised as a nuclear weapons state. "If this is accomplished, any

■ Turn to Page 10

Clinton's itinerary

■ Continued from Page 9

economic sanctions will automatically be ruled out.

This will also obviate the need for discussions on dual-use technologies, which we are being denied by the US," he said.

The main agenda on the President's visit will be discussions on economic relations and a possible declaration against terrorism in the sub-continent, Prof. Rajagopal said.

"The biggest concern for the US is terrorism in this region, with Osama bin Laden lending a face to this terrorism," Prof. Rajagopal said. According to him, in the event that Mr Clinton's visits Bangalore, the Super-computer Education and Research Centre and the pioneering efforts being carried out by Prof. H.S. Mukunda on biomass research will figure in his schedule.

"This place is the cradle of science research. I am sure he will visit these places," he said.

"And the other choice would naturally be the IT firms, especially Infosys. Apart from commerce, his visit to Bangalore or for that matter, Hyderabad will have little significance," Prof. Rajagopal said.