

Iran war charity a **SCAM**: IB

NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (IANS)

AFTER the Union Home Ministry issued an advisory regarding some elements trying to indulge in radicalisation in the event of the war in Iran, the Intelligence Bureau (IB) has now sounded an alert against a charity scam.

Many groups have cropped up who are collecting donations in the name of the war in Iran. These elements are collecting funds on the pretext of welfare of the people of Iran who have been affected due to the war, an official said.

Similar activity was discovered when the war broke out between Israel and Palestine last year. Such charities come up during such periods and once they col-



Locals have donated gold, silver, and cash to support Iran in the wake of the Gulf War crisis in Budgam. (ANI Video Grab)

lect the funds, they vanish, another official said.

These persons running these fake charities make an emotional

push. They show photographs of the war, most of them which are digitally altered to collect funds.

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'Iran imposing toll system for vessels'



TEHRAN, Mar 26 (ANI)

THE conflict in West Asia has put enormous stress on one of the key shipping routes that passes through the Strait of Hormuz. A new report suggests that Iran's

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India has **60 DAYS** of fuel stocks: Govt

NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (PTI)

INDIA has about 60 days of fuel stock cover, the Government said on Thursday, adding that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, or LPG as it dismissed reports of shortages as a "deliberate misinformation campaign" aimed at triggering panic buying.

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IRGC has imposed a de facto 'toll booth' regime in the Strait. This requires vessels to submit full documentation, obtain clearance codes and accept IRGC-escorted passage through a single controlled corridor, said the report.

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Jaishankar in France for G7 meet; W Asia crisis tops agenda

NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday travelled to France for the G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting, which will discuss the West Asia crisis with a focus on coordinating efforts to ensure that the Strait of Hormuz remains open for international shipping.

While India is not a G7 member, it has been invited as a partner country by France, the current chair of the powerful bloc.

Top diplomats from the US, Canada, Germany, Italy, France, Japan and the UK are attending the meeting.

The External Affairs Minister will visit Abbaye des-Vaux-de-Cernay in France on March 26 and 27 to participate in the G7 Foreign MINISTERS' meeting with partner countries, according to an official statement.

Jaishankar is also expected to hold bilateral discussions with his counterparts on the sidelines of the G7 meeting, it said.

Besides India, France has invited Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Brazil. According to a French official, there will be a session dedicated to the crisis in West Asia.

The Ministers will deliberate on exploring different negotiation channels that could lead to

de-escalation in the region and reopen maritime routes, the official said.

The Foreign Ministers will also discuss how to "tackle the nuclear and ballistic programme of Iran," the official noted.

Global oil and gas prices have surged after Iran virtually blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow shipping lane between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, which handles roughly 20 per cent of global oil and LNG.

West Asia has been a major source of India's energy procurement.

In the last couple of weeks, India has made diplomatic efforts

focused on ending the conflict in West Asia as soon as possible and ensuring the unimpeded flow of energy through the Strait of Hormuz.

New Delhi thinks there could be serious ramifications for fuel and fertiliser security for many countries, including India, if the blockade of the shipping lane continues.

The Group of 7 brings together seven of the world's most advanced economies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The European Union is also a member of the bloc.