

# ISIS Claims Responsibility For Iran Twin Blasts

## Why In News

- **Islamic State claimed responsibility** for two explosions that led to the **death of over 100 people** and wounded several others at a ceremony in Iran. The group posted a statement on its affiliate Telegram channels.



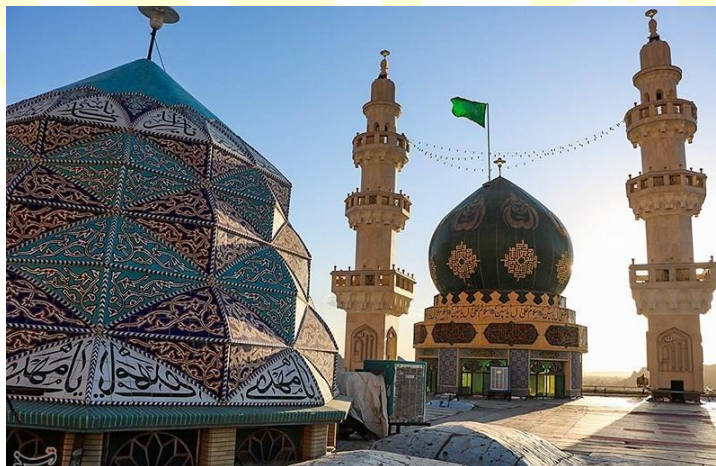
- People had gathered at a cemetery to mark the fourth death anniversary of senior military commander **General Qassem Soleimani** who was killed by a US drone in 2020. He was in charge of the **Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)**.

## What It Is All About

- In a statement, the **militant Sunni Muslim group** said two IS members had detonated their explosive belts in the crowd which had gathered at the cemetery in the southeastern Iranian city of Kerman on Wednesday for the anniversary of Soleimani's death.
- The death toll has risen to 103 in twin blasts that took place in the Iranian city of Kerman near the **burial site of slain military commander Qasem Soleimani**.
- Moreover, 188 people were injured as a result of the blast. The officials called it a 'terror' attack; however, there is no further information on it.



- The **first explosion** took place around **3 pm in Kerman**, located 820 kilometres from Tehran.
- As the crowd of people sought to escape, another bomb detonated 20 minutes later near the **Saheb al-Zaman Mosque**.
- The Iranian government stated that most of the victims died in the second bombing, amid chaos from the first blast.



- The attacks in Iran came a day after a top Hamas leader, Saleh al-Aroui, was believed to have been killed in an Israeli drone strike in Lebanon.
- Taking to X, **Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal** said: “We are shocked and saddened on the terrible bombings in the Kerman City of Iran. At this difficult time, we express our solidarity with the government and people of Iran.”



Randhir Jaiswal

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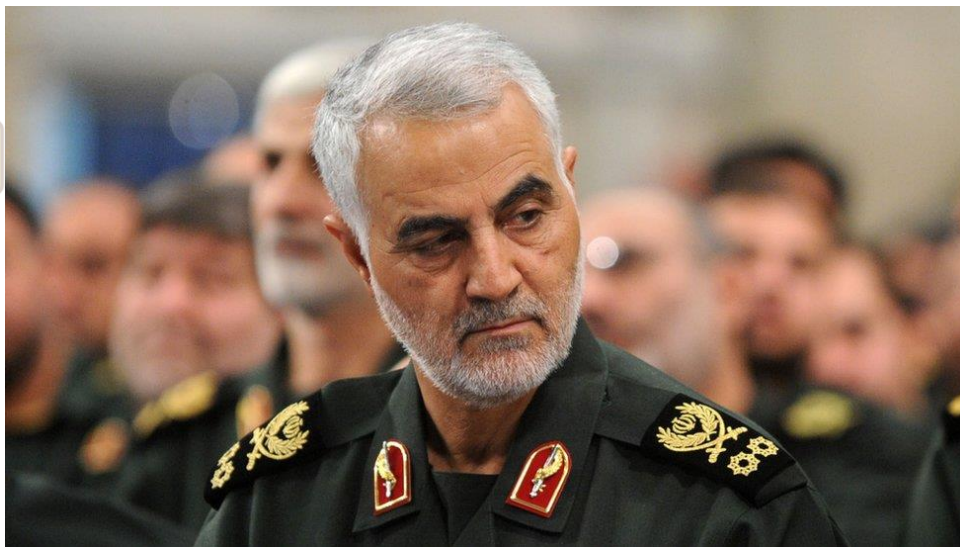
Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims and with the wounded.

11:41 AM · Jan 4, 2024



## Qasem Soleimani

- **Revolutionary Guard General Qassem Soleimani** was killed in a US airstrike at Baghdad's international airport on January 3, 2020.
- Soleimani was the commander of the Quds Force, the **elite extra-territorial special forces** arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, and reported directly to Iran's Supreme Leader, **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**.



- Pentagon said that the US military had killed him at the direction of then-**President Donald Trump**.
- A popular figure in Iran and a potential presidential candidate, Soleimani was seen as a threat by the US and its adversaries.
- A report by the Associated Press said that he had wielded his regional clout publicly since 2018 when it was revealed that he had direct involvement in top-level talks over the formation of Iraq's government.

## Saleh al-Aroui

- **Al-Aroui**, 57, was from a village near Ramallah and **joined Hamas in 1987**.
- He helped establish the group's military wing, the **Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades** and remained deeply involved in its operations. Al-Aroui also founded the West Bank headquarters of Hamas.
- He spent 15 years in Israeli prison after which he was deported to Jordan in 2010. In recent years, **al-Aroui resided in Beirut**, where he acted as a Hamas ambassador to Hezbollah — a Lebanese Islamic militant organisation backed by Iran. He was one of the best-connected Hamas leaders to both Iran and Hezbollah.



- In 2014, **Israel accused al-Aroui of planning the kidnapping** and murder of three Israeli teenagers, which led to a **51-day war in Gaza**.
- The same year, Israel also accused him of plotting to overthrow Mahmoud Abbas, the **president of the Palestinian Authority**, which governs parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Saleh al-Aroui, was killed in an Israeli drone strike in Beirut, Lebanon.