The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russian President Putin to Give State of the Nation Address on Dec. 3

By Anna Dolgov

November 30, 2015



Last year, Putin made his state of the nation address on Dec. 4.

President Vladimir Putin will present his annual state of the nation address on Dec. 3, the Kremlin press office announced Monday.

The speech will begin at noon in Moscow, Russian news agencies reported Sunday, but the Kremlin has not yet confirmed the start time.

Putin will hold his annual news conference on Dec. 17 — a major presentation that typically lasts for several hours and brings hundreds of reporters to the Kremlin.

No information about the main topics of this year's state of the nation address have been released, and presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov has earlier this month denied media reports that the speech will focus on security issues following the downing of a Russian passenger airplane over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

Last year, Putin made his state of the nation address on Dec. 4. The main topics of the speech included the annexation of Crimea from Ukraine — which Putin described as a "historic reunification" with the Black Sea peninsula — Russia's economic troubles amid Western sanctions imposed over the Ukraine crisis, and defense issues. Putin portrayed Russia as a strong state that would overcome its difficulties.

This year's address comes amid Russia's air strikes in Syria — a military operation that Moscow maintains is aimed against the Islamic State terrorist organization, but which Western governments claim is intended to prop up Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime by targeting his political opponents.

The Russian economy must still contend with Western sanctions over the Ukrainian crisis, and the souring of Moscow's relations with Turkey after the NATO member country shot down a Russian bomber, accusing it of violating Turkish airspace.

Prior to the downing of the Russian bomber jet last week, Ankara had urged Moscow to cease its air strikes against territories controlled by Syria's Turkmen rebels — tribesmen of Turkish descent who oppose the Assad regime.

Islamic State is a terrorist organization banned in Russia.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2015/11/30/russian-president-putin-to-give-state-of-the-nation-address-on-dec-3-a50983