

Vladimir Putin Hails Achievements in New Year's Speech Marking 25 Years in Power

By [AFP](#)

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Vladimir Putin. **screen grab**

President Vladimir Putin praised his country's achievements in a New Year's Eve speech Tuesday, saying Russians should be "proud" of what Russia had done during his quarter century in power.

The address, delivered exactly 25 years after he took over from his predecessor Boris Yeltsin, did not explicitly mention the war in Ukraine and focused mostly on wishes for the year ahead.

"Dear friends, in just a few minutes 2025 will be ushered in, completing the first quarter of the 21st century," Putin said in the televised remarks.

"Yes, we still have a lot to decide but we can be rightfully proud of what has already been done," the Kremlin chief added, saying the 25 years had paved the way for "further

development."

He also praised Russian soldiers, a theme echoed in his previous New Year's addresses since his full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

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"On this New Year's Eve, the thoughts, hopes of relatives and friends, millions of people across Russia are together with our fighters and commanders," Putin said. "Now, on the threshold of a new year, we are thinking about the future. We are sure that everything will be all right. We will only go forward."

The address comes at a pivotal moment in the nearly three-year conflict, with Russia steadily advancing on the battlefield and U.S. President-elect Donald Trump promising a speedy ceasefire once he takes office.

Putin was named acting president on New Year's Eve in 1999, when predecessor Boris Yeltsin unexpectedly resigned and apologized for the country's post-Soviet turmoil in a speech that stunned Russians.

The televised New Year's Eve speech, which continues a tradition started by Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, is a holiday staple in Russia and is watched by millions of households. It is aired on state TV just before midnight in each of Russia's 11 time zones and is usually a summary of events over the past year, as well as wishes for the year ahead.

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