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Kremlin Launches Preparations for Putin's Annual 'Direct Line' Call-In Show

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The Kremlin said Tuesday that it had launched preparations for President Vladimir Putin's annual press conference and "Direct Line" call-in show.

"We're preparing in the same way as last year and previous years, in a combined format," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters during a daily briefing, confirming his previous comments made on Sunday.

"It will be both a Direct Line and an annual major press conference of the head of state," Peskov said.

Putin's call-in show and end-of-year press conference have been combined since they were merged due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

Peskov did not name the exact date for this year's event. Last year's was held on Dec. 19, 2025.

On Sunday, Peskov said a "matured" neural network developed by state lender Sberbank

would help the Kremlin field a much larger volume of public requests prior to the event. The Kremlin claimed that more than 3 million queries were submitted to last year's show.

First launched in 2001, Putin's call-in program aims to cast the Russian leader as a "problem-solver-in-chief," as he personally addresses the complaints of ordinary citizens that regional and local officials are accused of ignoring.

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