

What is the Halwa Ceremony?

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About Halwa Ceremony:

- The ceremony is a ritual in which traditional dessert 'halwa' is prepared and served to officials and staff **members of the finance ministry** who **are involved in the preparation** of the **budget**.
- It is a kind of a **'send-off' for finance ministry officials** and staff involved in the preparation of the Union government's annual financial statement.
- They enter what is **called a 'lock-in' period**, during which they stay in the basement of North Block, cut off from the world outside with a view to maintaining the secrecy around the final budget document.
- These stringent measures date back to a leak that occurred in 1950. A portion of the Union Budget was leaked while it was being printed at Rashtrapati Bhawan. As a result of the leak, the then Finance Minister, John Matthai, resigned.

Key facts about the Union Budget of India

- The **Union Budget** of India also referred to as the **Annual Financial Statement** in the **Article 112** of the Constitution of India, is the annual budget of the Republic of India.
- It is also known as the Annual Financial Statement of the Government; however, the term **"budget" is not mentioned** in the **Constitution**.

Q1: What is a budget?

It is an annual financial statement for a specific period of time, usually a year, that outlines projected income and expenses. It is used as a tool for managing financial resources and achieving specific goals such as mobilization of resources, fiscal consolidation, etc.

Source: FM participates in customary 'halwa' ceremony; marks final stage of Budget preparation

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/halwa-ceremony/>

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