

What is the 'Halwa' Ceremony?

January 27, 2023 • vajiramandravi.com



About 'Halwa' Ceremony:

- It is a **customary pre-Budget event** that **formally flags off the printing of different documents associated with the Budget** and marks the **final stage of the Union Budget-preparation**.
- It involves the **preparation of** the traditional dessert '**halwa**' in a **massive kadhai (wok)** which is then **served to the entire staff in the Finance ministry**.
- The **finance minister gives the go-ahead** by stirring the kadhai and serving the sweet to officials.
- It takes place in the **basement of the Finance Ministry's North Block** in Central Delhi, where a **special printing press is located**.
- **After the 'halwa ceremony', officials involved in the Budget-making process are 'locked in' at the North Block.** They are **kept in absolute isolation** and completely cut off from the outside world **till the finance minister finally presents the Budget**.
- The **"lock-in"** which follows the 'halwa ceremony' is observed **to maintain the secrecy of the Budget preparation process**.

Q1) When is the Union Budget presented in India?

The Union Budget of India is presented in Parliament on February 1 by the Finance Minister. The Budget is traditionally presented in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament.

Source: [Halwa Ceremony Returns As FM Sitharaman Marks Final Stage of Budget Preparation](#)

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