

As the controversy on the fate of the four-year undergraduate programme rages, Delhi University (DU) colleges, caught in the midst of undergraduate admissions, expect a delay in the admission process this year. Following UGC's letters, St Stephen's College on Sunday announced that the "final admissions" to the college have been deferred.

"In view of the reported UGC directive to the University of Delhi regarding its undergraduate programmes (FYUP), St Stephen's College, while continuing with the ongoing selection process, including the publication of provisional lists of selected and waitlisted candidates for various courses, shall defer final admissions till a decision is taken on the matter by the competent authority," principal Valsan Thampu said.

St Stephen's College, a minority institution, follows admission rules different from most other colleges under DU. With the college having declared cut-offs for undergraduate courses under the four-year format, interviews for admission in the college are underway. The college has also uploaded a list of students selected for admission to Sanskrit (Honours) under the four-year programme.

Stating that the admission interviews will continue as per schedule, Thampu's statement said, "St Stephen's will admit students only to duly approved courses. Students seeking admission to a particular course need to have definitive information about the structure and duration of the courses they join. The 'admission list' being put up now is, hence, provisional. The final admission to all courses, including payment of fees, is deferred till a decision on the matter is taken by the university/UGC."

With the first cut-off list for undergraduate admissions expected on Tuesday, other colleges feel that the admission schedule will have to be changed. A senior official at a South Campus college said, "We don't see classes beginning in July. There will be a delay of at least two or three weeks. The schedule has been drawn up. If there is a rollback, we will have to start the admission process afresh."

Ramjas College principal Rajendra Prasad also pointed out the roadblocks colleges will face in case the four-year course is rolled back.

"There are a lot of things which will have to be revised. We will need around one week to start the admission process," Prasad said.



Under the four-year undergraduate system, Pass/Programme courses such as BCom (P), BA (P), BSc Life Sciences, among others, had been done away with. The seats of these courses had been distributed among the Honours courses. A reversal to the three-year format, Prasad said, would mean a re-distribution of these seats.

"Two years ago, I was admitting 40-50 students in BCom (Honours). Following the four-year undergraduate course, some seats of BCom (Pass) went to BCom (Honours) and we admitted around 120 students. If there is a reversal, these seats will have to go back to Programme course," Prasad added.

Pointing to the UGC's letter warning colleges of freezing of funds, Prasad said this was "too big a threat" as colleges survive

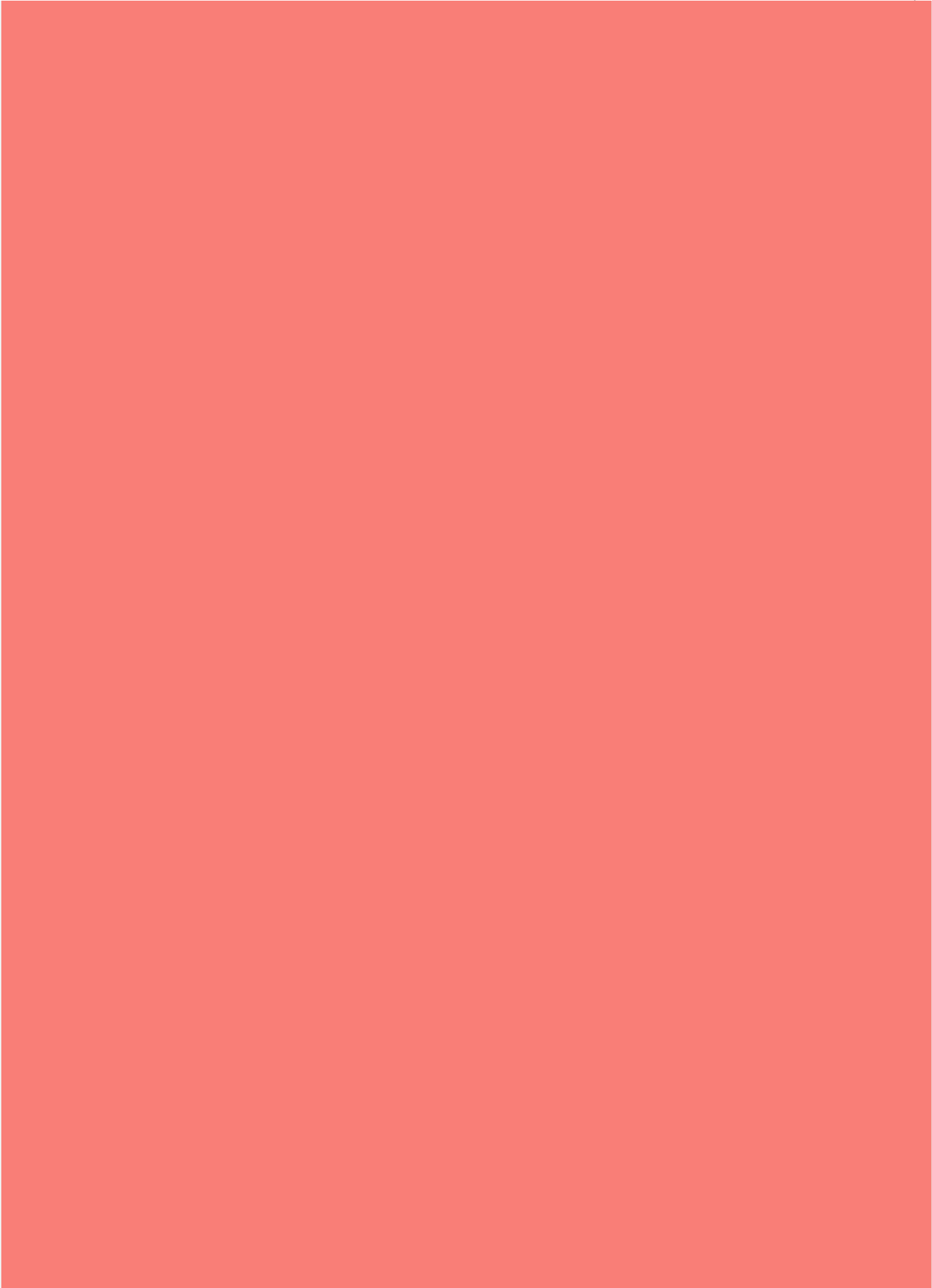


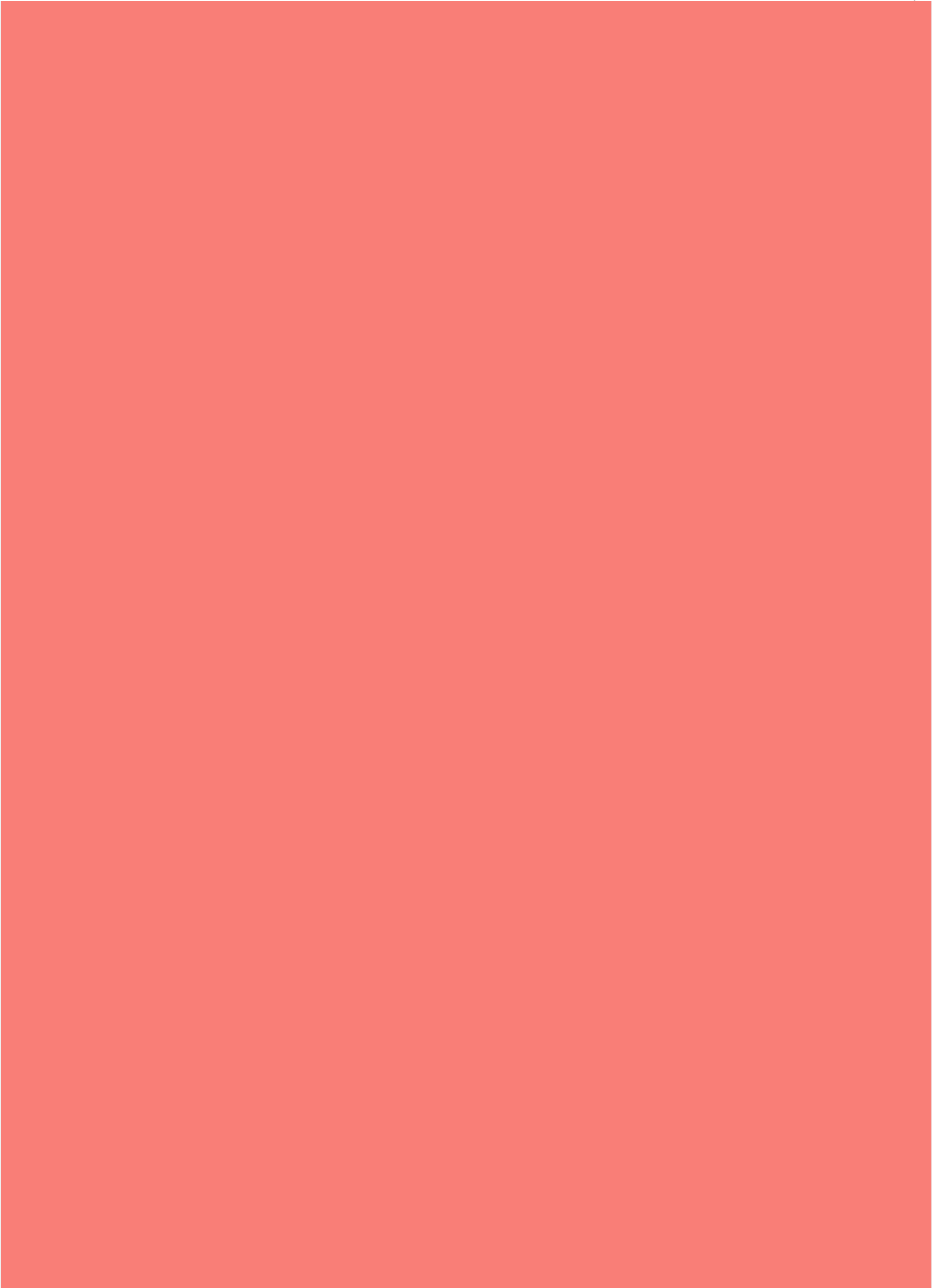
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