



November 25, 2019

## An update about Gaurav Das, the student who lost a leg, fingers and thumbs to frostbite

*Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada,*

This is to inform you about Gaurav's progress and to set a **goal of raising \$20,000 from Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 onward, to help Gaurav complete his studies, while continuing his rehabilitation, up to May 2020.**

According to Gaurav's mother, Rupa Das, they have survived in 2019 thanks to the generosity of several people including the Indo-Canadian Association of Moncton. In the last few months up to mid-November, a sum of \$3,500 was received from 17 donors, mostly IIT Alumni in Canada and their friends. The family is very grateful to them, especially to the philanthropist, approached by an IIT alumnus, who donated \$5,500 for Gaurav's unpaid portion of fall 2019 tuition. Without this, Gaurav's medicare could have lapsed, leading to untold suffering for the whole family.

**Gaurav's rehabilitation is progressing.** He regularly visits a prosthetist, a physiotherapist, and a psychiatrist.

He also sees a plastic surgeon when the surgeon is available, despite a large unpaid and increasing bill for surgeries. In the last two months, Gaurav has been affected by serious depression as he is pitifully unable to reconcile himself to a life without a right leg, fingers and thumbs. The prosthetic leg is still on a trial basis, and yet cannot be used for daily routine movement, so Rupa continues to push his wheelchair. After Gaurav completes his rehabilitation, Rupa can return to India, and give some relief to her daughter who is caring for Rupa's mother and husband.

**Gaurav's studies are going well.** He started classes in New Brunswick Community College (NBCC) in April 2019 and has performed very well in all tests and examinations to date. In 2021, if all goes well, he will be awarded a diploma by NBCC in business, with a major in accounting and financial mathematics. His other subjects include economics and marketing. He then has an option to take up a job or return to Mount Allison University to complete his B.A. degree with credits transferred from NBCC. After Gaurav completes his studies, he can start earning in Canada, and work to pay off his debts.

**Rupa Das's application for a Canadian work permit is progressing well.** The application is thanks to a kind lawyer introduced by an IIT Alumnus. The application is supported by a dozen recommendations including letters from the President of IIT Alumni in Canada and the President of the Indo-Canadian Association of Moncton. The permit is expected to be granted

in May 2020. Rupa's 6-month visitor visa expires in November 2019, and another 6-month extension has been requested.

**Prosanto Das, Gaurav's father, is in the process of selling the family property in India.** Prosanto, himself a serious cardiac patient and diabetic, has been contacting potential buyers, and dealing with the challenges of obtaining a succession certificate for the inherited property, which may take several months.

### **The Goal of \$20,000 for the 6-month period to May 2020**

The family has estimated that \$20,000 will carry them through to the end of May 2020. This includes about \$1,000 monthly just for the apartment rental. Gaurav and Rupa need to stay in their current apartment due to its proximity to the medical clinics that he visits, and the classes he attends, with Rupa pushing his wheelchair. It also includes minimal grocery, living and education expenses, plus minimal payments for Gaurav's hospital and plastic surgery bills. He is due for more surgeries as part of the rehabilitation.

By May 2020, the family expects that Rupa will get a Canadian work permit and take up a job. They also expect Gaurav to be further ahead in his rehabilitation with more surgeries completed, and to require less of Rupa's personal attention. The family also hopes that by they can sell their property by May 2020, but this is hard to predict. As noted in the October 25 update, the family has had no income since March 2018 when Prosanto was hospitalized.

Rupa is praying that their "miseries will end" in May 2020. Rupa and Prosanto remember every single person who has helped them, referring to them as "angels", and someday they hope to be "angels" themselves for others.

## How we can help Gaurav Das and his family

1. Donate funds toward Gaurav's tuition and living expenses.

We can send Interac e-transfers to Rupa Das at [dasrupa651@gmail.com](mailto:dasrupa651@gmail.com), since she has an account in the Bank of Nova Scotia. We can post a cheque, in USD or CAD, payable to Rupa Das, 230 Mapleton Road, Apt 3011, Moncton NB, E1C 0H6, Canada.

2. Call Rupa and Gaurav and give them some encouragement and hope. Rupa's Canadian phone number is +1-506-377-4694, and her WhatsApp number is +91 86975 24692. Rupa's email is [dasrupa651@gmail.com](mailto:dasrupa651@gmail.com).
3. Call Prosanto Das, giving him some encouragement too. His India number is +91 62890 11929, and his e-mail is [Prosanto\\_das@hotmail.com](mailto:Prosanto_das@hotmail.com).
4. Reach out to others who may be able to help. If you know anyone in New Brunswick or in the vicinity, request them to visit or call Rupa and Gaurav.
5. Send a gift parcel to them at the postal address mentioned above.
6. Think of ideas to help the family and act on them.