



PANNA TIGER RESERVE, PANNA, MP.

NEWSLETTER

“BUDHRAM ROUTIA” *the courageous mahout of PTR* *(15/02/1966 - 04/07/2022)*

Budhram Routia, age 56 years, died on 4th July 2022 in the morning hours from injuries sustained in an accident involving the elephant Rambahadur while on duty.

Budhram was born in a village in Chhattisgarh. He came to Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) in year 2002 along with the elephant Rambahadur as his Mahout. Budhram was always an inspiring story. He was a person of short stature but had a big heart, still bigger personality and extraordinary courage.

Budhram was full-time caregiver for the elephant Rambahadur, the biggest elephant of PTR, for more than 20 years. He was 'Sthayi Karmi' working as mahout in Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR). He was the mahout who rode the elephant used for conducting more than 50 tranquilization procedures on tigers successfully, in the whole process of tiger re-introduction in PTR. Tranquilization of tiger is a team work and elephant mahout is the first and most important link in the whole chain. He played his role with all sincerity and courage and always set example for others.



PIC: Late Budhram Routia with elephant Rambahadur and Training a Young calf elephant

Once during the forest patrolling on his elephant back in year 2018, he came in contact with high voltage electric line and half of his body got paralyzed due to electric shock. Recovery took long and was a painful journey but it was courage of his convictions that he recovered and continued his duties as mahout.

Elephant Rambahadur, who dominated all other elephants in PTR, had one master: Budhram Routia. After the incident of killing of late shri Bhagat, when nobody was sure of Rambahadur, it was Budhram who dared to manage Rambahadur. And he did it till his last day.

Budhram Routia is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter. His both sons are working in PTR as Chara-Cutter (Aksmik Shrmik). Daughter is married.

In Budhram, PTR has lost one of its Braveheart. PTR family is deeply saddened by the loss. He will always be remembered for his boundless passion for all animals, especially elephants.
