

mentioned in the report that the guard walls, drain erected in most the stretches, slabs are either blocked or not in order leading to water logging in some of the stretches. Therefore, prima facie it appears that the statement made by Mr. Chauhan in the additional affidavit dated 23rd February, 2026 is incorrect.

3. This petition is pending since 2022 with respect to the repair and restoration work of the road (done by NHAI) on the Jowai-Ratacherra road (NH-6). Almost four years have lapsed and yet the road is not completely done as stated in the affidavit.

4. Learned Amicus seeks time to place the incorrect statements made by the NHAI in their affidavits/report. Time granted.

*5. Shri Anand Singh Chauhan, Project Director, NHAI to remain present in Court tomorrow i.e. **20th March, 2026**.*

*6. Stand over to **20th March, 2026**".*

2. Pursuant to the aforesaid order, Shri Anand Singh Chauhan, Project Director, NHAI is present in Court, today.

3. Mr. Panthi, learned Amicus states that the Project Director has been filing reports stating therein that the road works between Jowai By-Pass and Ratacherra have been completed, when infact, the same is not completely done and there are still huge craters/potholes in several areas. He submits that the affidavits and reports filed by the Project Director, NHAI are

nothing but an attempt to hoodwink the Court by annexing photographs only of completed areas and indirectly, an attempt to mislead the Court. Mr. Panthi submits that when he visited the area between Jowai By-Pass and Ratacherra covering an area of about 102.225, he found that some of the roads are in an extremely poor condition with huge craters/potholes requiring vehicles to navigate through the same. Mr. Panthi had tendered a report on 19th March, 2026, to that effect. To the report are annexed photographs which show that the statement made by the Project Director is incorrect and misleading.

4. Infact, in the report dated **28th October, 2025** submitted by the Project Director, NHAI duly signed by him, it is stated that the stretch from Lumshnong to Ratacherra of NH-06, which was the main concern of PIL No.11 of 2022, has been completely constructed. It is further stated that the strengthening and improvement work for the Jowai-Ratacherra section is almost complete. At the end of the report, under the title “**Completion status (Jowai-Ratacherra section)**”, it is stated as under:

“In this regard, it is humbly submitted that the overlay/construction work of the main carriageway has almost been completed. The remaining works related to road furniture, including road marking, are in progress and are likely to be completed in all respects by 15.11.2025.”

5. Learned Amicus states that the little work that remained to be done i.e. relating to road furniture, including road marking, as per the said report dated 28th October, 2025, was to be completed in all respect by **15th November, 2025**. It appears that the same has also not been done.

6. Again, in the report submitted by the Project Director dated **2nd February, 2026** to the Court, it is stated that the strengthening and improvement work for the entire Jowai-Ratacherra section has been completed, which was the main concern of the PIL and the package-wise details were mentioned in the said report. Under the column “**Completion status (Jowai-Ratacherra section)**”, the Project Director has stated as under:

“In this regard, it is most respectfully submitted that the overlay/construction work of the main carriageway of the subject stretch stands completed. However, in order to address the recurring issue of landslides at certain vulnerable locations, which during heavy monsoon leads to complete stoppage of traffic, a separate an independent

contract has been awarded for slope protection and allied works at seven (07) vulnerable locations, along the Jowai-Ratacherra section, which is presently being executed by M/s MFB Geotech Private Limited for a contract period of one and a half year. It is submitted that the works at these locations are confined to small stretches of approximately 50-100 meters each, primarily on the hill side and valley side, and are being carried out without disturbing the main the carriageway. At present, culvert work at Km 105 is in progress, and the road has been kept trafficable.

It is further submitted that, barring 2-3 scattered stretches of limited length (50-100 m each), the entire road stands completed in all respect and is operational. Since this stretch lies in an area experiencing extreme rainfall conditions, among the highest in the world, coupled with heavy commercial traffic including overloaded vehicles, activities such as pothole repair, slope stabilization and black spot rectification are continuous and dynamic in nature and are undertaken periodically to improve road safety and serviceability; however, the road itself has already been reconstructed and completed.”

7. Infact, it is pertinent to note that in the additional affidavit filed by Shri Anand Singh Chauhan on **23rd February, 2026**, before physical verification was undertaken by the learned Amicus and learned Standing Counsel for the NHAI jointly of the area, in the said additional affidavit, in paragraph 4, it has been stated that *“it is pertinent to mention that the strengthening and improvement work for the entire Jowai-Ratacherra section has*

been completed by both the contractors.” In paragraph 8 of the said additional affidavit, it is stated as under:

“8. That it is pertinent to mention that the culvert at Km 105 which was earlier pending completion has been completed and all the vehicles are plying over it without any hinderance.”

Accordingly, in the said report, it is stated that since no cause of action survives, the Public Interest Litigation be closed.

8. Learned Standing Counsel for the NHAI has today tendered photographs of the section pointed out by the learned Amicus yesterday. He states that yesterday, repair work in the said section commenced and that temporary work is being done i.e. levelling of the work is being done so as to make it motorable. He tenders an unconditional apology on behalf of the Project Director for submitting the earlier reports.

9. Considering the reports filed by the Project Director, NHAI with respect to the Jowai-Ratacherra section showing that the work is complete, despite the same not being complete, we find that the Project Director is attempting to prima facie mislead the

Court into closing the petition by stating that the entire work has been completed. But, for Mr. Panthi, learned Amicus in pursuing the petition, and expressing his willingness to visit the stretch and take inspection before the PIL could be closed, we would have disposed of the petition, in view of the report filed by the Project Director, believing the same to be true and honest.

10. Consistently, from the report dated 28th October, 2025 till the additional affidavit filed by the Project Director as stated aforesaid, it appears that an attempt is being made to mislead the Court into believing that the entire work section i.e. Jowai-Ratacherra section, is complete. The photographs relied upon by Mr. Panthi, learned Amicus show not only incomplete road but huge craters/potholes on the roads requiring vehicles to navigate through the said section.

11. Considering the aforesaid, we deem it appropriate to issue show cause notice to Shri Anand Singh Chauhan, Project Director, NHAI, under the Contempt of Courts Act, as to why contempt action should not be taken against him, for attempting to mislead the Court.

12. Accordingly, the Registry to issue show cause notice to Shri Anand Singh Chauhan, Project Director, NHAI under Section 12 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 returnable on **9th April, 2026.**

13. Stand over to **9th April, 2026.**

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(Revati Mohite Dere)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
20.03.2026
"*Lam*" DR-PS"