

Elect-Insight Research Foundation

Ward Report: Dispur Ward 25

1 Introduction

Dispur Ward 25 is part of Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) in Assam's Kamrup Metropolitan district. The ward includes urban villages such as Sonaighuli, Dakhingaoon, Jugashree Nagar, Jyotikuchi and Shreebhuminaagar. It falls under the Dispur Assembly Constituency.

Following the Election Commission of India's final delimitation order in August 2023, Assam retained 126 Assembly seats and 14 Lok Sabha seats with nine constituencies reserved for Scheduled Castes and 19 for Scheduled Tribes.. The delimitation exercise kept villages and municipal wards intact but altered the Dispur seat's boundaries.

2 Demographic Profile

District	Kamrup Metropolitan
Assembly Constituency	Dispur
Villages (Ward area)	Sonaighuli, Dakhingaoon, Jugashree Nagar, Jyotikuchi, Shreebhuminaagar
Ward number	25
Booths covered	98-112 & 8-12
Approx. voters	20,000

3 Caste and Community Dynamics

Based on interviews and booth-level data collected by field researchers, the vote-share distribution in the ward is estimated as follows

Community	Estimated voter share
Tribal (Rabha, Bodo, Mishing, Karbi etc.)	6,000
Bengali (Hindu and Muslim)	4,000
Kalita	1,200-1,500
Sarma	1,000
Das	1,000-1,200
Muslim (non-Bengali)	800-1,000
Total voters	20,000

The tribal groups are concentrated in the hill hamlets of Sonaighuli and Dakhingaoon. Bengali Hindu settlers live along the plain areas and commercial corridors, while Assamese caste

groups (Kalita, Sarma and Das) occupy the middle-class neighbourhoods. The demographic heterogeneity underscores the need for nuanced political messaging that respects indigenous identities and engages Bengali and Assamese communities.

4 Political Situation and Recent Trends

Current MLA and recent election results. Dispur Assembly Constituency is represented by *Atul Bora* of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In the 2021 Assembly election, he defeated Indian National Congress candidate Manjit Mahanta by over 121,000 votes. Out of 412,114 electors, 306,318 valid votes were cast, with the BJP securing 196,043 votes (64 %) against the Congress's 74,386 votes (24.3 %). Earlier, in 2016 the BJP's Atul Bora received 198,378 votes (71 %) while the Congress polled 68,181 (24.5 %).

The large victory margin reflects the BJP's organisational strength and the personal appeal of its MLA.

Delimitation impact. The 2023 delimitation order retained the Dispur seat and expanded seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes in Assam. The inclusion of hill villages has increased tribal voters, making their support pivotal in upcoming elections.

Voter sentiment. Interviews reveal contrasting views. Many residents believe Atul Bora has served long enough and want a fresh face, while others prioritise the party label and will support whomever receives the BJP ticket. Tribal voters emphasise selecting a candidate who understands land-patta issues and hill livelihood challenges, may be from their community. The opposition Congress, Asom Jatiya Parishad (AJP) and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) remain organisationally weak in the ward.

5 Candidate Strength & Visibility (Jayanta Kumar Das)

Jayanta Kumar Das, a potential candidate, enjoys a positive personal image among those who recognise him. He is remembered for planting trees and meeting residents at Sonaighuli some days ago, but many voters still do not know him. The research team found that residents have not seen consistent development activities from him since that visit. Without frequent engagement, name recognition remains limited and cannot match the long-term familiarity enjoyed by incumbent MLA Atul Bora.

6 Influencers and Key Local Voices

Field surveys identified several local opinion leaders whose support could influence community sentiment. The table below summarises their names and stated positions. (Phone numbers are excluded in public reports for privacy.)

Name	Affiliation/Role	Summary opinion
John Sarma	AGP supporter	Feels Atul Bora has become an old face and wants a younger candidate.
Bijoy Bora	BJP ST Morcha	Will back whoever gets the BJP ticket and does not prioritise individual candidates.
B. Bhagabati	Retired army man	Believes the BJP is the best option but criticises lack of development.
Narahari Borman	Retired teacher	Notes that many Congress supporters have shifted to the BJP in recent years.
Tapan Das	BJP supporter	Advocates for introducing a new BJP candidate in the upcoming election.

7 Key Issues and Findings

7.1 Water Supply Crisis

The ward faces an acute shortage of safe drinking water. Guwahati's city-wide water supply projects have repeatedly missed deadlines. A 2024 report from the local news outlet G Plus states that the South Guwahati West Water Supply Project is 80 % complete and is not expected to be finished until October 2025. The South Guwahati Central Water Supply Project (88 % complete) may only be finished by December 2024, whereas the North Guwahati Water Supply Project is likely to be finished by August 2025. The most delayed project – the South Guwahati East Water Supply Project – is only 17 % complete and is unlikely to be operational before February 2030.. Because of these delays, only a small fraction of households currently receive piped water; 1,568 families have been connected under the West project and 12,280 families under the Central project. The state government has allocated additional funds, but cost overruns continue.

In January 2025, a major water-supply pipe ruptured in Guwahati's Kharguli area. Water gushed out for about an hour, damaging several houses and vehicles. The incident forced the authorities to cut water supply to the city for several days and highlighted the vulnerability of ageing structure

To address the chronic shortage, the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) has undertaken four major water-supply projects funded by the Government of India (JNNURM) for the south-west zone, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the north and south-central zones, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the south-east zone. The GMDA has assigned project management units, and the Guwahati Jal Board will operate the systems once complete】. The South-East Guwahati Water Supply Project, listed

on India's investment grid, started on 1 April 2022 and has a projected completion date of 1 July 2025 with an estimated cost of about US\$ 101 millionl

Overall, the long delays and periodic disruptions have fuelled public frustration. Providing reliable water supply remains the single biggest issue in Ward 25.

7.2 Land ownership and hill development

Many residents in the hill areas of Sonaighuli and Dakhingaon occupy land without formal titles (patta). Without legal documents, they cannot access government housing schemes or secure loans. The lack of patta also leads to frequent land disputes and undermines incentives for infrastructural investment. The absence of proper drainage and retaining walls on hill slopes has exacerbated landslides and increased vulnerability to heavy rains.

7.3 Roads and urban services

Field observations show that the internal colony roads connecting Jyotikuchi, Shreebhuminaagar and Sonaighuli remain in poor condition. Pot-holes, lack of street lighting and insufficient public transport affect daily life. Garbage collection is erratic, and solid-waste disposal sites are located far from the hilly settlements. The ward also suffers from occasional urban flooding during heavy monsoon downpours because drainage channels are blocked by encroachment and hill run off.

8 Probable MLA Candidates (2026)

Although the 2026 Assembly election is still months away, political parties are gauging potential candidates. The following table lists prominent names discussed by party workers.

Candidate	Party
Atul Bora	BJP (incumbent MLA)
Mira Borthakur/Ripun Bora	Indian National Congress
-	Assam Gana Parisad (AGP)
-	Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP)
-	Raijor Dal

9 Suggestions for Candidate Jayanta Kumar Das

To maximize electoral prospects and address the ward's pressing issues, the following actions are recommended:

- **Expand grassroots engagement:** hold listening sessions in every hill hamlet and plain neighborhood to understand specific grievances. Ensure follow-up visits so residents know their feedback matters.
- **Engage youth groups** in cleanliness drives and tree-planting.
- **Communications and visibility:** launch a sustained outreach campaign using posters, door-to-door visits and social media. Highlight personal credibility, track record of service, vision to develop the constituency.
- **Build alliances with local influencers:** seek endorsement from respected figures such as retired teachers, community organizers and youth leaders to broaden appeal across communities.

10 Conclusion

Dispur's Ward 25 is a microcosm of Assam's diversity, bringing together tribal communities, Assamese castes, Bengali settlers and migrants from across the state. The demographic heterogeneity and hilly terrain make governance challenging. While the BJP currently holds a commanding position thanks to repeated electoral victories, voter fatigue with long-serving incumbents and persistent problems such as water scarcity and lack of land titles create an opening for new leadership. Any aspirant for 2026 must therefore combine empathetic engagement with concrete plans to secure basic services and legal rights. Addressing the water-supply crisis and land-patta issues should be at the heart of the campaign. With sustained outreach and issue-based advocacy, Jayanta Kumar Das can emerge as a credible alternative and help bring inclusive development to Ward 25.