"The regional camp that came into existence through the anti-GAA movement is no different. Despite the fact that women played a key role in the GAA protests across Assam, both the Assam Janiya Parishad and Rajbhor Dal have very few women contestants," Acharya added.

The Assam Mahila Sangha which submits a charter of demands to the State government every year for ensuring safety of women and economic empowerment, too, feels that women's issues are rather included in a clichéd way in the political manifestos, with real concerns being relegated to the backdrop.

"In neighbouring West Bengal, the BJP has announced Misa Bharti Mallick targeting the women vote bank of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. A huge corpus fund to the tune of Rs 2,000 crore and 33 per cent reservation in government jobs to women have been promised by the saffron party. While in Assam, the BJP government's promises to women include expansion of Oorjodori scheme that gives Rs 500 to the women beneficiaries, 2457 women helpline, micro finance loan schemes, women's hostels, etc. Though there is nothing wrong with these schemes, it is something too little too late for half the population of the State," said Anjali Karmakar, a women's rights activist of the Assam Mahila Sangha.

"The manifestos of ruling political parties promise special measures for safety and security of women government employees against sexual harassment. As if working women of the private sector, unorganized sector and the homemakers are not the subject and responsibility of the government! We must also understand that women need some long-term sustainable measures for their economic empowerment in addition to schemes like Oorjodori," said Anuradha Hazarika of the North East Network (NEH).

"Women are still more vulnerable due to lack of protection and safety in their own homes, workplaces, public transport, streets, markets and other public spaces. These require specific measures," she added.

A number of women's organizations of Assam had prepared a manifesto stressing formulation of a State policy for women's safety and protection with adequate budgetary allocation, establishing women's safety committees at all levels beginning from the panchayat level up to the district and State levels with equal representation of all genders.

With the State recording a number of acid attacks in the last few years, monitoring and regulation of acid sale was also sought. The organisations also stressed appointment of non-political, professional women to head regulatory bodies for effectively addressing women's issues.