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## Haryana sets up panel for law on 'love jihad'

ANAND MISHRA  
NEW DELHI, DHNS

After Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh brought stringent legislation against 'love jihad', Manohar Lal Khattar-led Haryana became the third BJP-ruled state to move forward on the contentious law, setting up a three-member committee to draft an ordinance.

"A three-member drafting committee formed to frame law on 'love jihad' in Haryana," Home Minister Anil Vij tweeted informing that the panel comprises state Home Secretary T L Satyaprakash, Additional Director General of Police Navdeep Singh Virk and Additional Advocate General Deepak Manchanda.

The minister's announcement came three days after the UP government cleared a draft ordinance against conversion for marriage. The UP draft law prescribed declaring null and void any such marriage and prescribes imprisonment of up to 10 years for

those who are found guilty of religious conversion by marriage if the woman is a minor.

Haryana had passed a bill last year against conversion solely for the purpose of adopting a new religion. The Haryana law could be broadly based on the Himachal pattern. The state government had earlier sought information from the neighbouring state on the matter.

The Madhya Pradesh government is also proposing a jail term of 10 years for anyone found guilty of using marriage to force someone to change religion.

In Madhya Pradesh, Home Minister Narottam Mishra has asserted that such a law is the need of the hour and hence, the state government has proposed a 10-year jail term for luring, threatening and forcing someone into marriage for religious conversion and five-year jail term for gurus, priests, maulvis and Kazis who will conduct such marriages, in the proposed Dharm Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020.