



# WHO KEEPS AN EYE ON PRISONS?

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## BOARD OF VISITORS (BOVs)

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By law (Section 59(25) of Prisons Act, 1894) every jail must have a Board of Visitors. The Board is made up of **officials**, **elected representatives** and also **people of good standing from the local community** known as Non-Official Visitors (NOVs).



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## WHAT DO THEY DO

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**Meet**  
regularly

**Visit** the  
jails together  
or  
individually

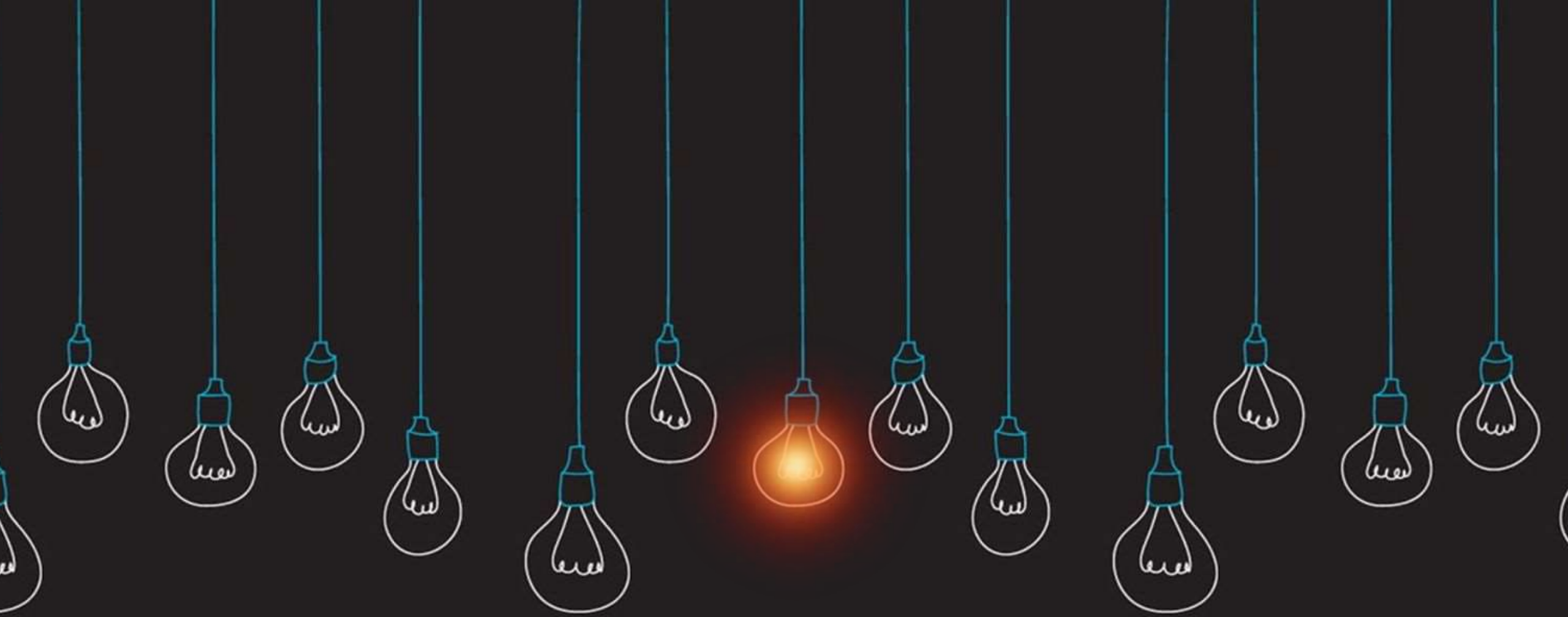
**Observe**  
the material  
living conditions,

**Report** to  
the higher ups

**Follow up**  
with the prison  
staff and other  
local authorities

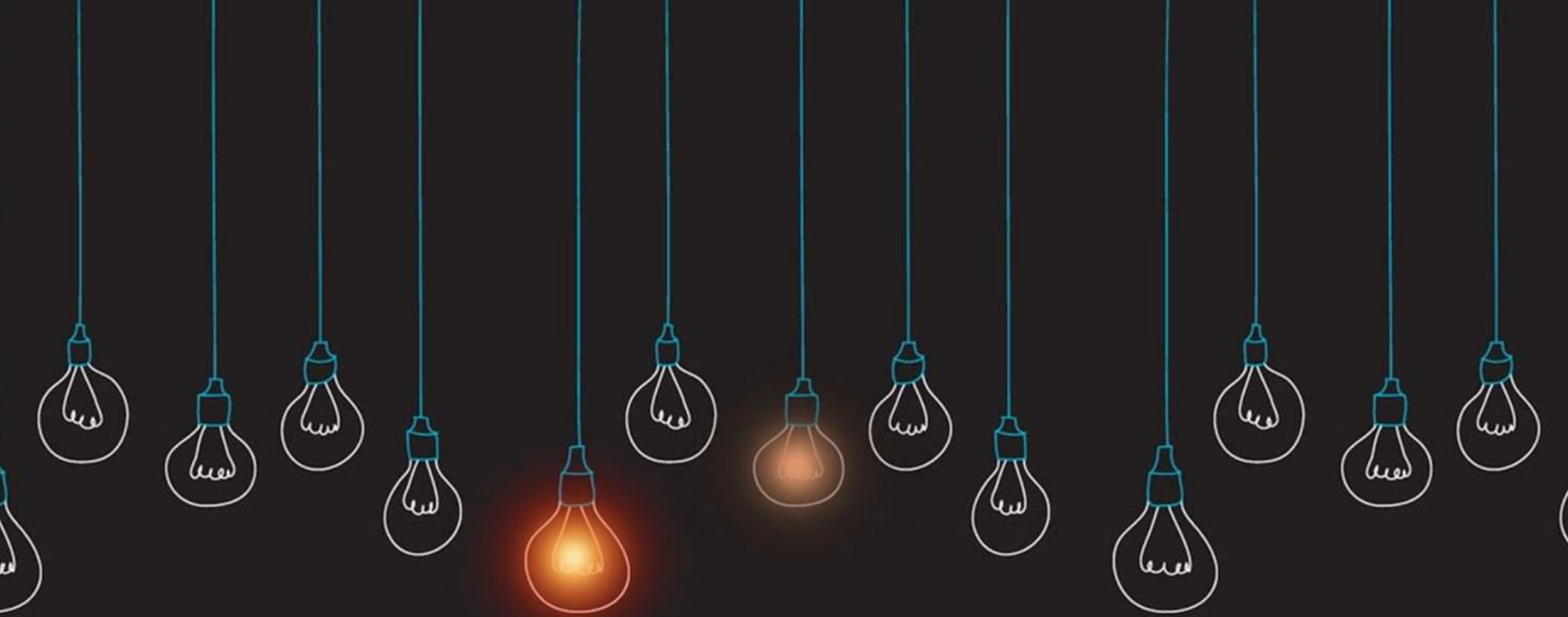
**27 States &**

**Union Territories**

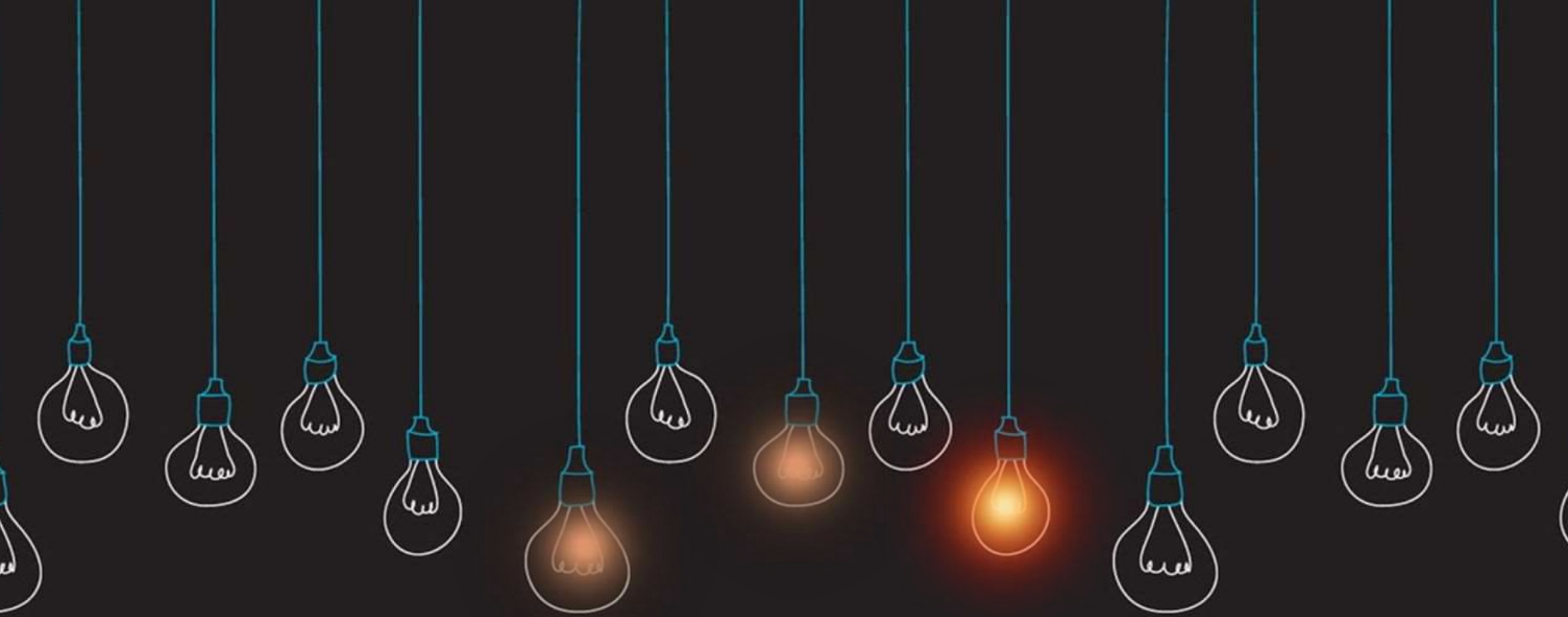


**ONLY 5 OUT OF 1382 JAILS ARE MONITORED  
ACCORDING TO THE LAW**

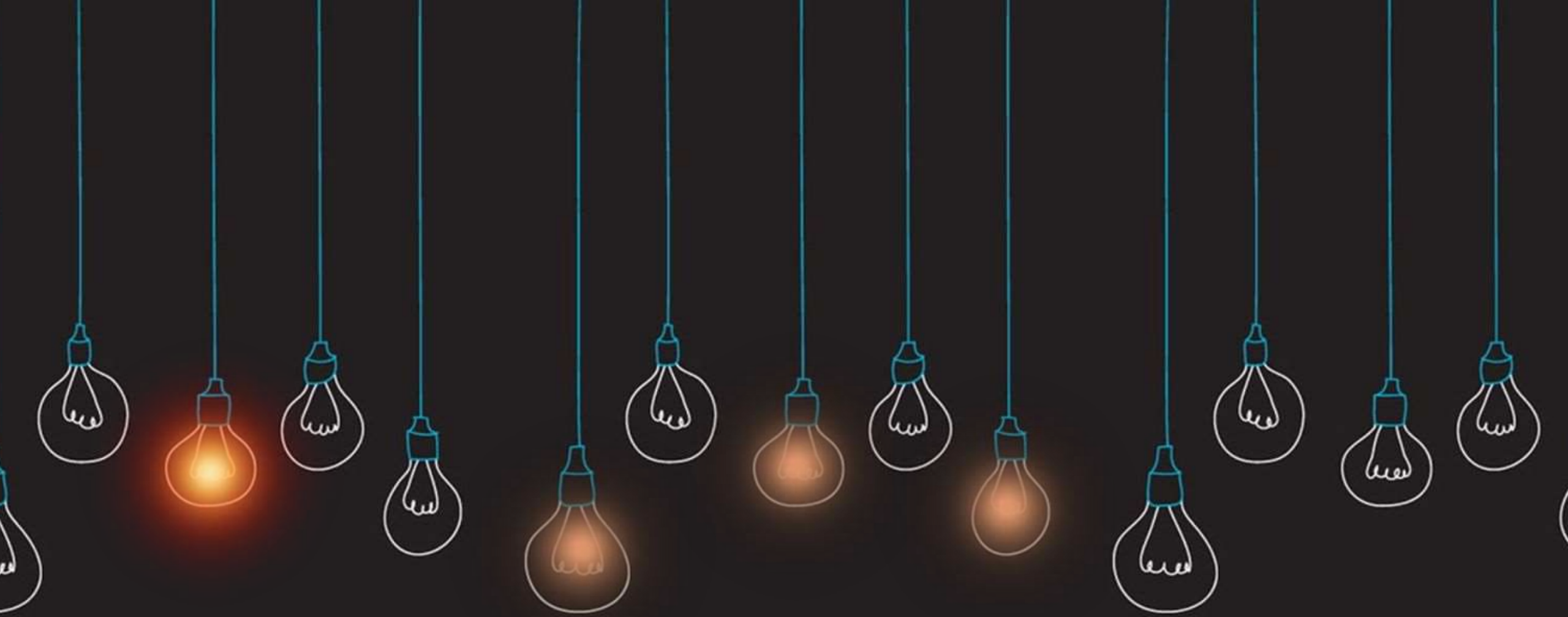




**Only 4 states have Board of Visitors constituted in  
all their jails**

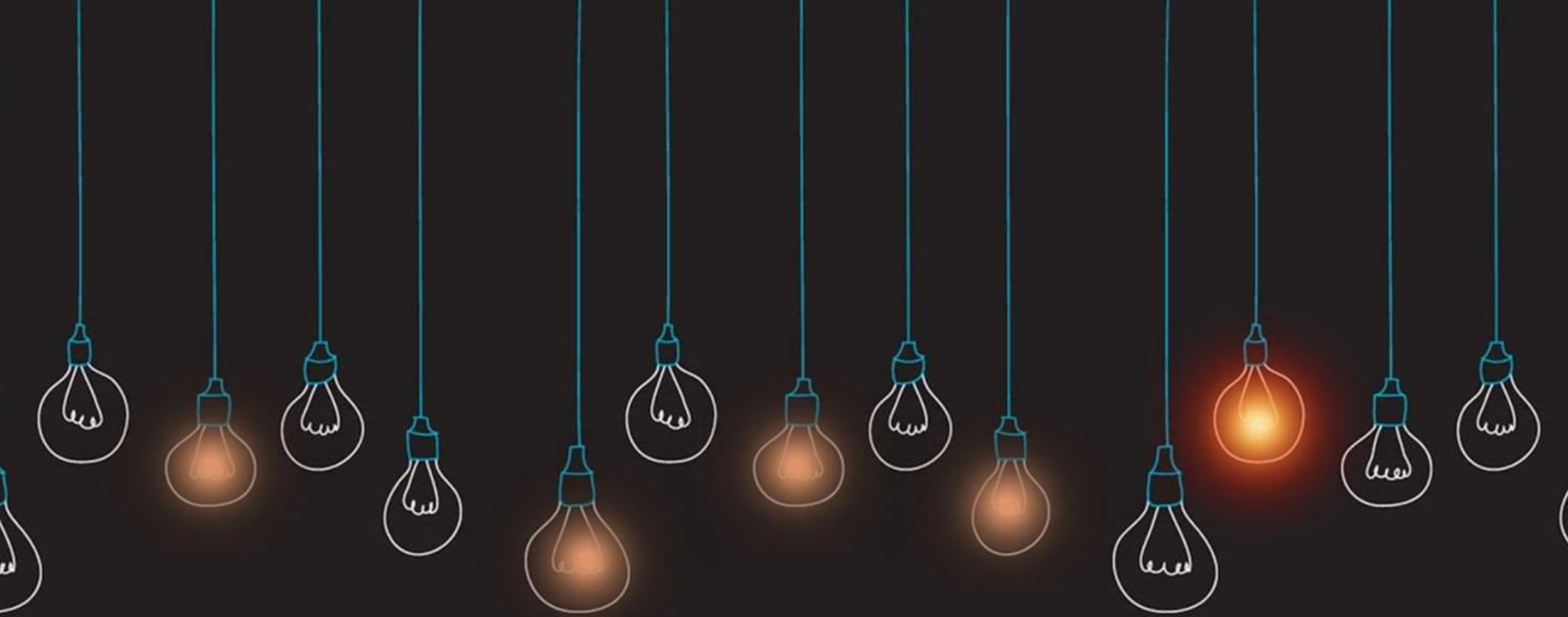


**Only 3 STATES appointed visitors according  
to the criteria**

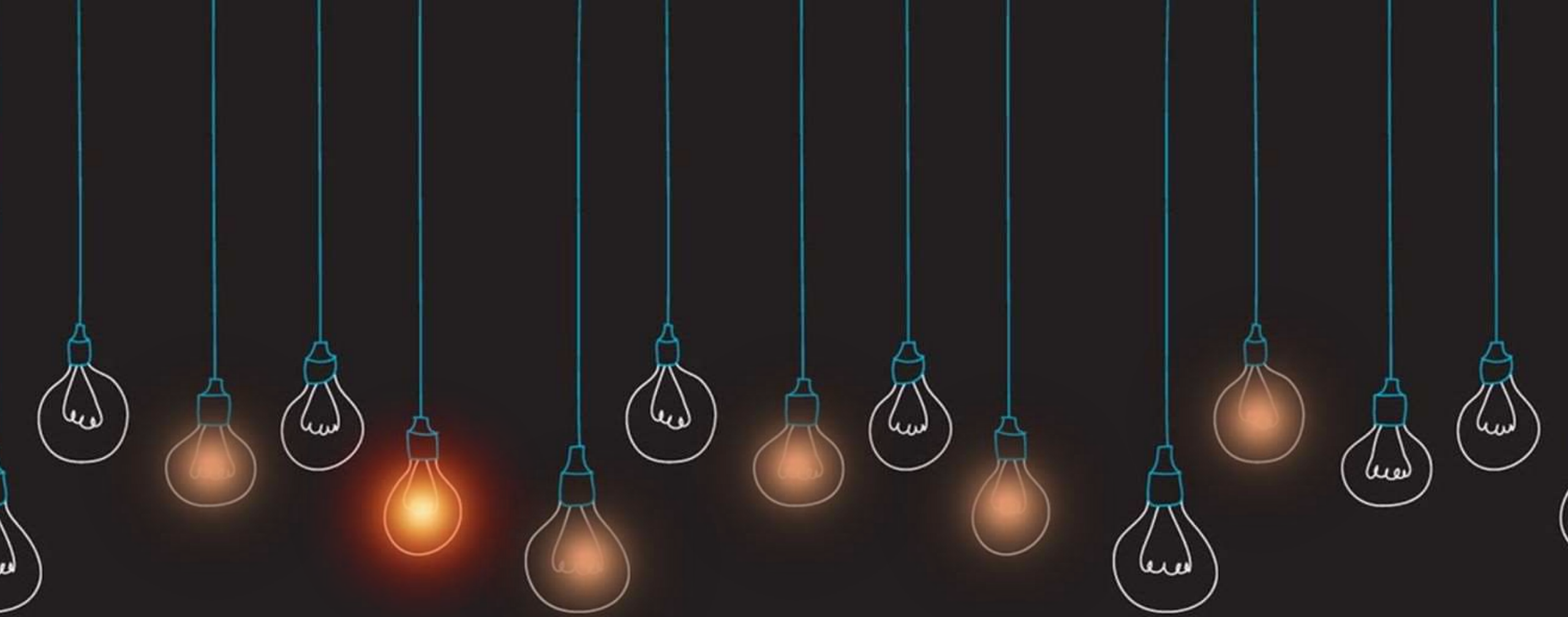


**11** states are governed by the rules of **other**  
**states**

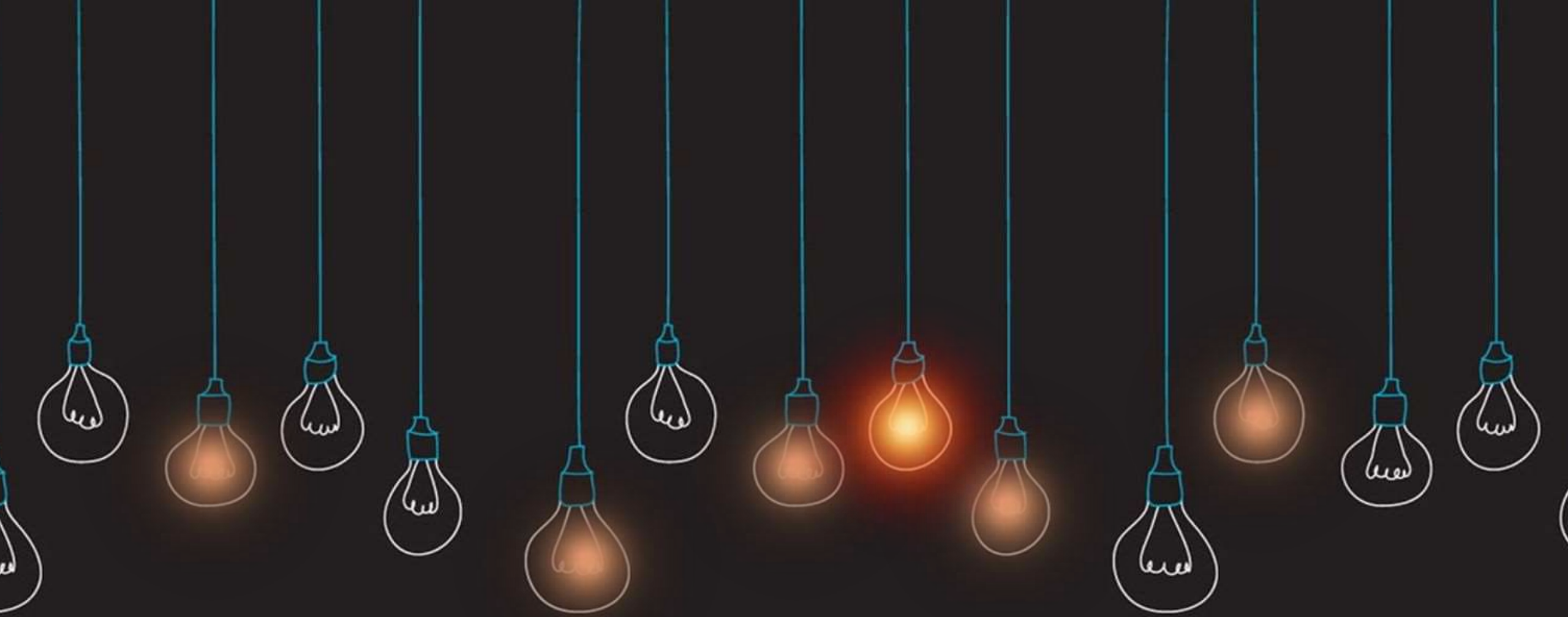




**ONLY 4 OUT OF 36 STATES HAVE THEIR OWN  
PRISONS ACT**

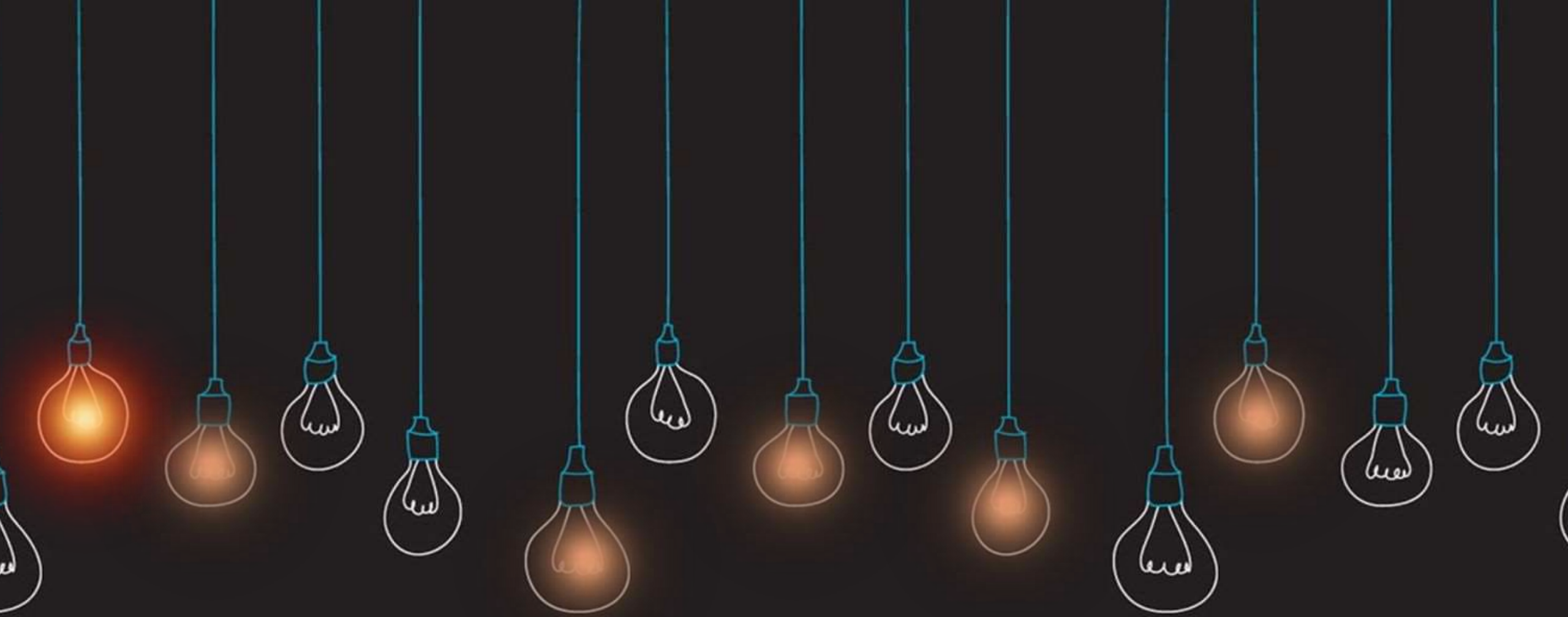


**ONLY 13 STATES SEEK REPRESENTATION OF  
WOMEN VISITORS**



**ONLY 14 STATES include sub jails to have  
Board of visitors**





**8 STATES** do **not** lay down the **frequency of inspections**

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Only 4 states have a Prisons Act of their own

## Name

Indian prisons or 'Nobody's baby'

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Only 4 states have Board of Visitors constituted in all their jails

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Only 7 states prescribe professional qualifications and background as appointment criteria

## Age

Ever-so-old and perpetually decaying

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Only 10 jails have Board of Visitors constituted in some of their jails

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6

11 states are governed by the rules of other states

## Appearance

Overcrowded, underfunded and on the verge of collapse

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Only 3 jails appointed visitors according to the criteria