

Secret and Immediate.

DECLASSIFIED

Criminological Insights
Severing the
By
Empire's Nerves
Dr. Mridul Srivastava

A 1946 bureaucratic blueprint for managing total infrastructure collapse in British India.

1946 India: Colonial Contingency for a National Communications Strike

The Impending Crisis



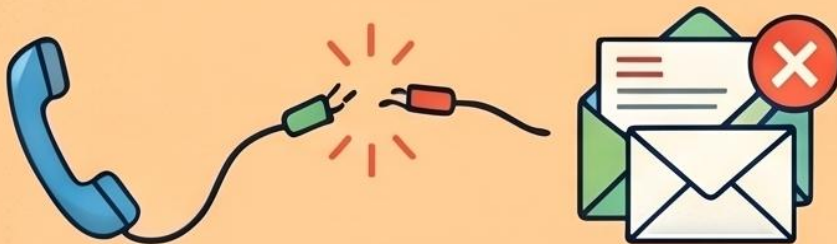
March 11, 1946 Strike Commencement

A general strike by Postal, Telegraph, Telephone, and R.M.S. workers was scheduled to begin.



Failed Negotiations

The strike was the direct result of the government's rejection of all worker demands.



Widespread Service Disruption

The threat encompassed all ordinary means of postal, telephonic, and telegraphic communication.



In early 1946, the United Provinces government issued "Secret and immediate" directives to bypass a massive strike by postal and telegraph workers threatening to sever government communication lines.

Continuity for Essential Supplies

Petrol suppliers like Burmah Shell were granted special road transport privileges for mail.

Emergency Administrative Protocols



Organising Alternative Messenger Services

Magistrates were ordered to establish manual messenger networks for provincial and central mail.



Police Wireless Activation

Provincial Police wireless services were designated as the primary backup if telegraphs failed.

Data Table

Emergency Command Structure & Directives

Recipient Group	Primary Directive	Backup Channel
District Magistrates	Organise local messenger services	Road transport for essential agencies
Prison Superintendents	Special messenger for urgent cases	Coordination with other prison stations
Police Force	Maintain wireless connectivity	Open access for provincial administration

METADATA EXTRACTION

Date of Issue:
Feb. 27, 1946

Deadline:
March 11, 1946

Countdown:
12 Days

Origin:
Deputy Secretary to Govt.,
U.P., Industries Dept.

Recipients:
All District Magistrates in
the Province.

The Threat:
Complete cessation of state
communications.

Secret and Immediate.

Extract copy of D.O.No.768(L)/22111. Acted Poby. 27.12.45. From
The Secy. Secretary to Govt., U.P. to the District Magistrate, Allahabad.
All District Magistrates, U.P.

I am desirous to address you on the question of a possible strike
by all Postal, Telegraph, Telephone and H.M.S. workers commencing from
March 11, 1946, failing acceptance of all their demands by the Govt. of
India, immediately.

In addition, if it your district comes to any wide-spread disturbance
of the ordinary means of postal and telegraphic communication, I am to
ask that you should organize messenger services in being into you Govt.
Halls from Allahabad Headquarters, and to take out from your H-Stationary
halls to your Headquarters, and to check of special agency, also to
H.M.S. Halls from all Govt. offices (Provincial or Central) should be
dealt with in this manner. Important services connected with essential
civil supplies, e.g., Salt, Sugar, etc. - and are supplying petrol for road
transport and similar agencies which are to be a less correspondence
in order to save both services going - should also be allowed to take
advantage of your messenger service. It may originally not be possible
to undertake the service and delivery of private mails in such
circumstances. Where Telegraph and Telephone services are also affected
I am to ask that the message service maintained by the Provincial
Police Force should be kept in ready order available.

Secret and Immediate.

One copy to be sent to D.O.No.768-01/D.O. of 1946.

Office of the Director-General of Police, U.P.

Postal Enclure, March 1, 1946.

Copy furnished to the District Magistrate of Allahabad, U.P.,
for information and for necessary action. All necessary steps should
be sent to the District Magistrate through special messenger in case of
any attempted disturbance of the ordinary means of postal and
telegraphic communication. The necessary arrangements should be organized
with other districts before the start of the strike in case of special
agency.

By order,

(S. I. Bhaad),
Personal Assistant

L.T. / 1-2-46.

The Threat Matrix

Postal



The primary administrative courier network

Telegraph



The high-speed wire network for urgent state directives

Telephone



The voice network for local government coordination

R.M.S.



Railway Mail Service—the continental distribution spine

The strike threatens to instantaneously revert state logistics to pre-industrial speeds.

The Analog Fallback Hierarchy



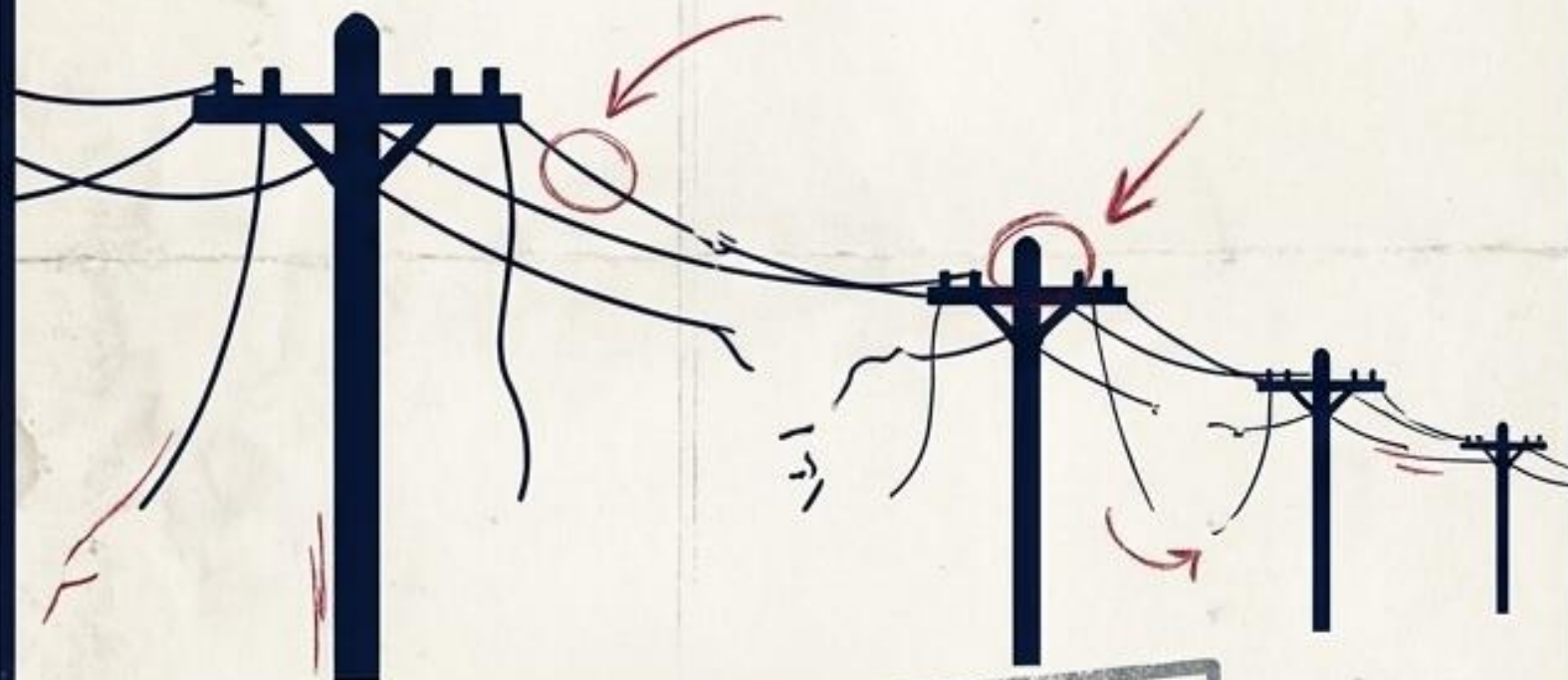
Re-establishing the chain of command using purely physical, road-based human couriers.

"organise messenger services to bring into you Govt. Mails from Tahsil Headquarters, and to take out from your Headquarters mails to your Commissioner, and... to Govt."

The Technological Pivot

"Where telephone and telegraph services are also affected... the wireless service maintained by the Provincial Police Force should be freely used"

Civilian Wired Network



COMPROMISED

Police Wireless Network



ACTIVATED

By shifting from civilian wires to police radio waves, the state bypasses the striking labor force entirely, relying on the militarized infrastructure of the Provincial Police.

Emergency Routing Triage Matrix

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RESTRICTED ACCESS

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Granted Emergency Access?</u>	<u>Routing Method</u>	<u>Stated Rationale</u>
Government Offices (Prov/Central)	YES ✓	Ad-hoc Messenger Hierarchy	Maintain state functionality.
Essential Civil Supplies (e.g., Burmah Shell)	YES ✓	State Messenger Service	To keep "road transport" and "services going".
Jails / Prisons	YES ✓	Dedicated Special Messengers	Secure "important cases" and "special urgency" dak.
Private Citizens	NO ✗	N/A	Explicitly stated—"ordinarily not be possible to undertake the carriage and delivery of private mails."

RESTRICTED ACCESS

ANALYSIS

The Penal Network Addendum

RESTRICTED ACCESS

In order to keep their services going - should also be allowed to take advantage of your passenger services. It will ordinarily not be possible to undertake the carriage and delivery of private mails in such circumstances. Where telephone and telegraph services are also affected I am so ask that the wireless service maintained by the Provincial Police Force should be freely used wherever available.

X. X. X.
X. X. X.

Secret and Immediate.

Charter Docket, No. 15575-61/D.C. of 1946.

Office of the Inspector-General of Prisons, U.P.

Desad Lucknow, March 1, 1946.

Copy forwarded to All Superintendents of Jails, for information and necessary action. All important cases should be sent to the Inspector-General through special messenger in case of any widespread disturbance of the ordinary means of postal and telegraphic communication. Similar messenger service should be organized with other stations to take on bringing in dak in cases of special urgency.

By order,

(S. I. Huzain)
Personal Assistant.

L.P. /1-2-46.

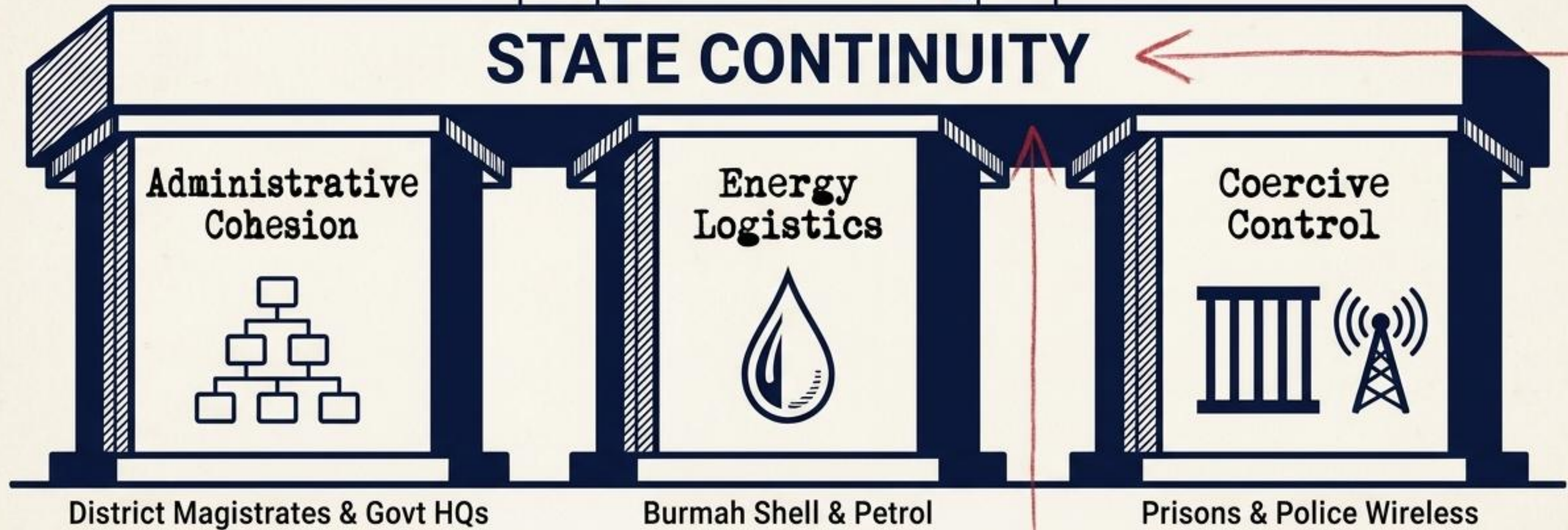
'Dak' = post/mail

The Inspector-General bypasses the general state messenger hierarchy, mandating a parallel, dedicated 'special messenger' network solely to prevent disruption within the prison system. Maintaining control of the incarcerated population is treated as a top-tier administrative priority.

(Note the two-day delay from the original Feb 27 memo)

ANALYSIS

The Anatomy of State Survival



When the 'nerves' of the empire are severed, the state abandons the public sphere (private mail) and retreats to protecting its three most vital organs: internal bureaucracy, the fuel to move it, and the force to protect it.

The Vulnerability of the Connected State

A single sheet of typed paper from 1946 reveals a timeless truth of infrastructure: the more centralized and efficient a state's communications become, the more fragile it is to organized labor action.

END OF BRIEFING.
FILE RETURNED TO ARCHIVE.

