

The 1895 Railway Penal Dragnet

Deconstructing Circular No. 2 of the
North-Western Provinces & Oudh



CRIMINOLOGICAL

INSIGHTS

BY

DR. MRIDUL SRIVASTAVA

CIRCULAR.

No. 2 of 1895

FROM THE INSPR-GENL OF PRISONS,
North-Western Provinces & Oudh.

TO THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF JAILS,
N. W. P. & Oudh.

Dated Lucknow, the 9th March 1895.

With the sanction of Government and in modification of the orders contained in para 1 of this office Circular No. 11 dated the 10th December, 1894, it is hereby ruled that all convicted Railway thieves and swindlers of these Provinces should be transferred to the six Central prisons according to the sub-joined list:—

District from which prisoners are to be sent:—	To the Central Prison at—
Bareilly	Bareilly
Shahjehanpur	Do.
Pilibhit	Do.
Moradabad	Do.
Bijnor	Do.
Badaun	Do.
Saharanpur	Do.
Dehra Dun	Do.
Naini Tal	Do.
Almorah	Do.
Agra	Agra
Etawah	Do.
Mainpuri	Do.
Aligarh	Do.
Bulandshahr	Do.
Meerut	Do.
Muzaffarnagar	Do.
Farukhabad	Fatehgarh
Etah	Do.
Muttra	Do.
Allahabad	Allahabad
Banda	Do.
Hamirpur	Do.
Jhansi	Do.
Lalitpur	Do.
Jalaun	Do.
Cawnpur	Do.
Fatehpur	Do.
Partabgarh	Do.

District from which prisoners are to be sent.—	To the Central Prison at—
Benares	Benares
Ballia	Do.
Ghazipur	Do.
Mirzapur	Do.
Jaunpur	Do.
Azamgarh	Do.
Gorakhpur	Do.
Basti	Do.
Lucknow	Lucknow
Unao	Do.
Bara Banki	Do.
Fyzabad	Do.
Gonda	Do.
Babraich	Do.
Rae Bareli	Do.
Sultanpur	Do.
Sitapur	Do.
Kheri	Do.
Hardoi	Do.

J. W. TYLER Kt. J. I. E.

*Inspector-General of Prisons
North-Western Provinces & Oudh.*

1895 Prison Circular: Centralising Railway Convicts

Summarising the administrative directive for the consolidation and transfer of railway-related criminals to central hubs in the North-Western Provinces & Oudh.



ISSUED BY:

Inspector-General J.W. Tyler



FOCUS: RAILWAY THIEVES

Targets convicted Railway thieves and swindlers.

REGIONAL JURISDICTION: North-Western Provinces and Oudh region of British India.

6

CENTRAL DESTINATION PRISONS

All regional convicts were consolidated into six specific high-level facilities.

STRATEGIC CONSOLIDATION:
Dozens of outlying districts were mapped to specific central prison locations.

BAREILLY

Shahjehanpur
Pilibhit
Moradabad
Bijnor

AGRA

Etawah
Mainpuri
Aligarh
Meerut

LUCKNOW

Unao
Bara Banki
Fyzabad
Gonda

LUCKNOW

Unao
Bara Banki
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No. 2 of 1895

FROM THE INSPR-GENL OF PRISONS,
North-Western Provinces & Oudh.

To THE SPERINTENDENTS OF JAILS,
N. W. P. & Oudh.

The Jurisdiction:
North-Western
Provinces & Oudh.

The Date:
9th March 1895

Dated Lucknow, the 9th March 1895.

The Location:
Lucknow

With the sanction of Government and in modification of the orders contained in para 1 of this office Circular No, 11 dated the 10th December, 1894, it is hereby ruled that all convicted Railway thieves and swindlers of these Provinces should be transferred to the six Central prisons according to the sub-joined list:-

J. W. TYLER Kt, C. I. E.

*Inspector-General of Prisons
North-Western Provinces & Oudh.*

The Authority:
J.W. Tyler Kt. C.I.E.

A single piece of bureaucratic paperwork engineered a massive logistical shift in colonial penal administration.

The Policy Mandate

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The Authority

With the sanction of
Government...



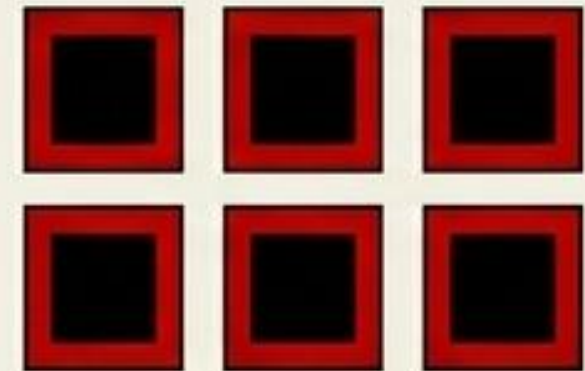
The Target

Railway thieves
and swindlers



The Action

transferred to the six
Central prisons



The Target Demographic

Railway Thieves

Physical theft of freight, luggage, and infrastructural materials.

Swindlers

Confidence tricks, ticketing fraud, and exploitation of passengers.

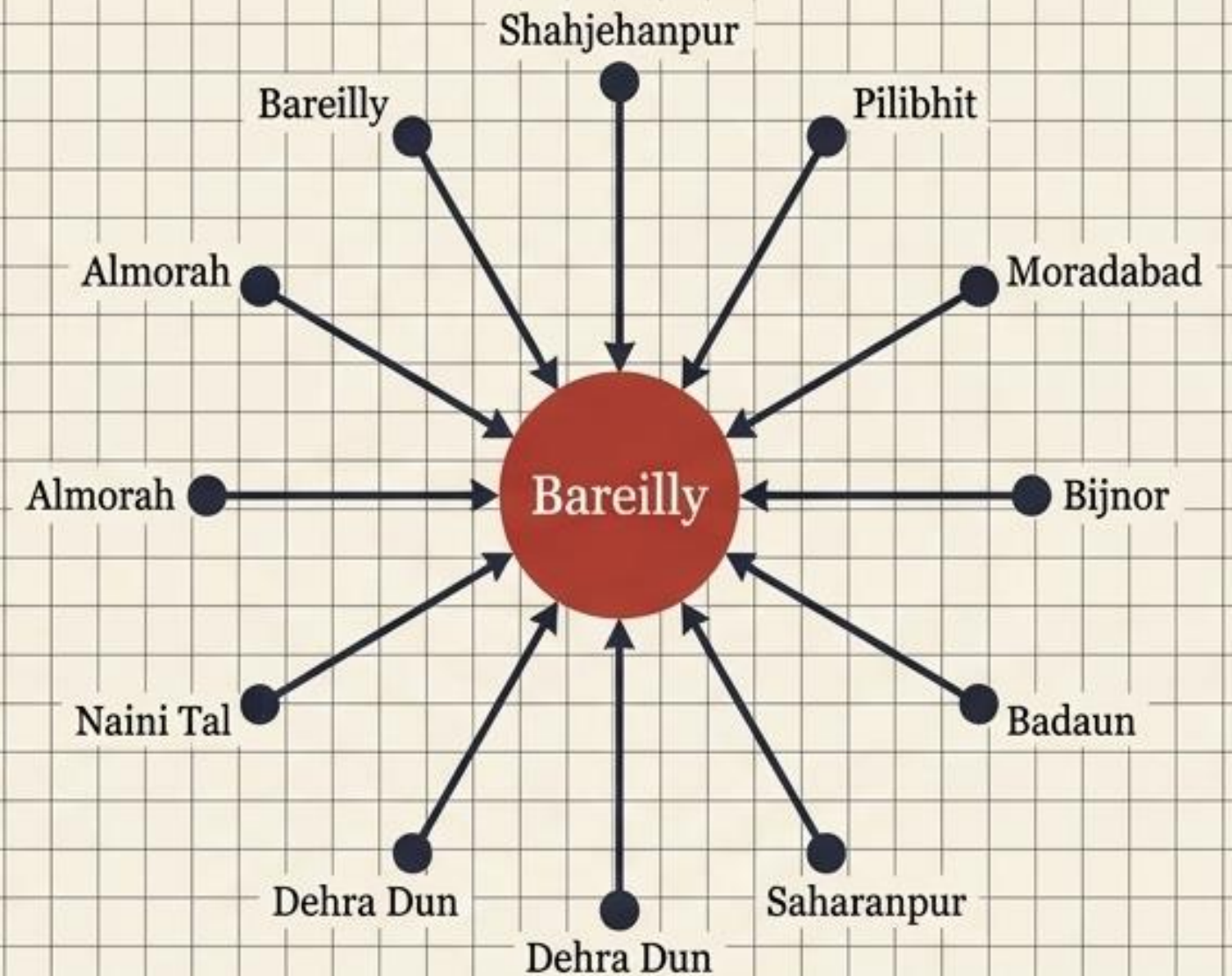
The expanding railway network created unprecedented mobility for criminals. Localised jails were ill-equipped to manage a transient, infrastructure-focused criminal class. Centralisation was the administrative counter-measure.

Table contance of local remeteering the penal centuments

The Archaic Format: Obscuring Scale

District from which prisoners are to be sent: —	To the Central Prison at—
Bareilly	... Bareilly
Shahjehanpur	... Do.
Pilibhit	... Do.
Moradabad	... Do.
Bijoor	... Do.
Badaun	... Do.
Saharanpur	... Do.
Dehra Dun	... Do.
Naini Tal	... Do.
Almorah	... Do.

The Administrative Reality: A Massive Catchment Zone



The ubiquitous use of 'Do.' (Ditto) turns a massive routing table into a tedious list. By extracting the data, we reveal the true architectural blueprint of the penal network.

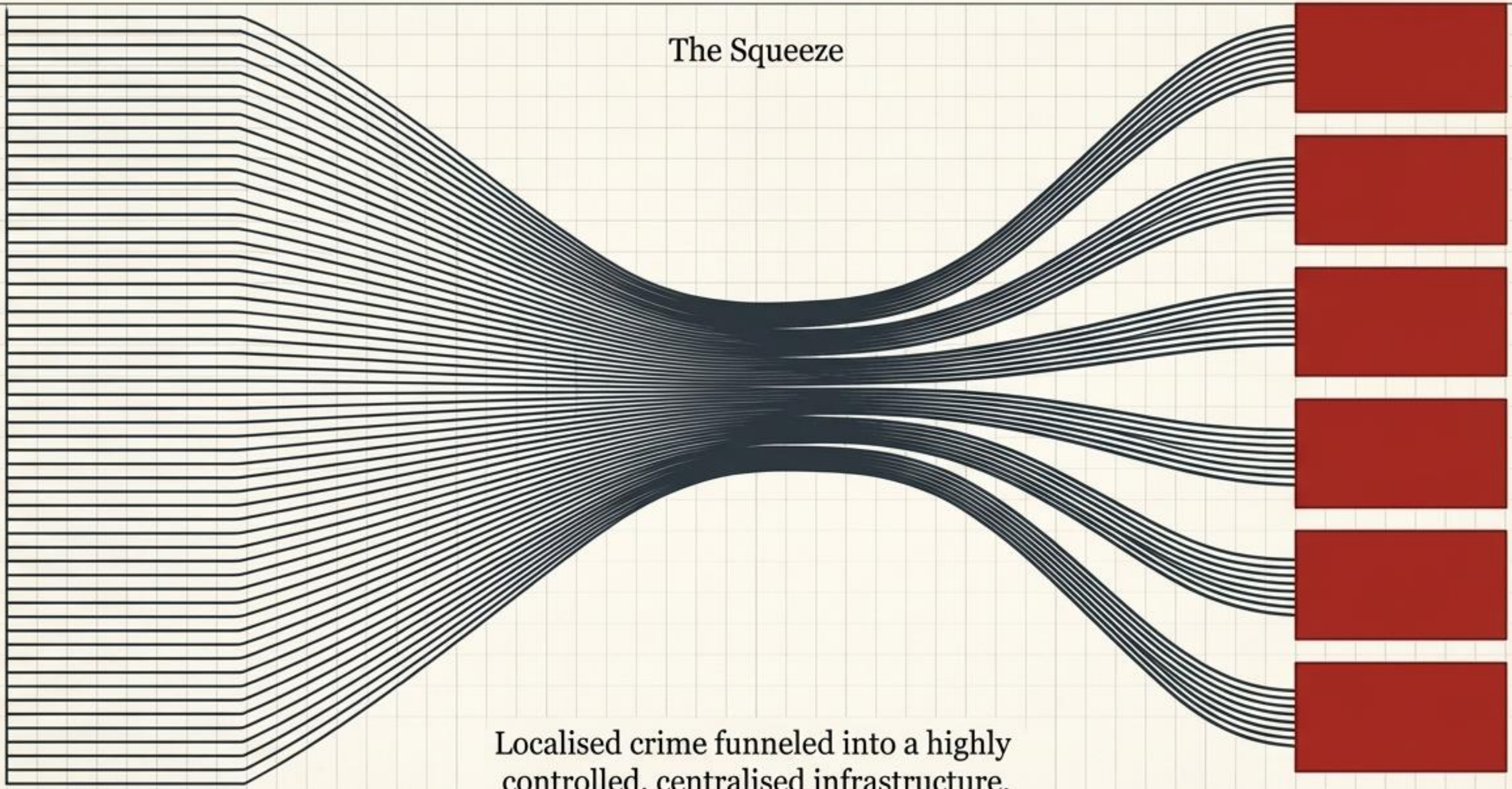
The Penal Funnel

The Squeeze

48 Local Feeder Districts

6 Central Prisons

Localised crime funneled into a highly controlled, centralised infrastructure.



The Hub Capacity Matrix

Central Prison Name	Number of Feeder Districts	Catchment Region Type
Lucknow	11 Districts	Maximum Load Hub
Bareilly	10 Districts	High Load Hub
Allahabad	9 Districts	Strategic Hub
Benares	8 Districts	Strategic Hub
Agra	7 Districts	Western Flank
Fatehgarh	3 Districts	Specialist/Relief Node

Catchment Dashboards: The Heavy Burden Hubs

LUCKNOW

11 Districts Absorbed

Lucknow, Unao, Bara Banki,
Fyzabad, Gonda, Bahraich, Rae
Bareli, Sultanpur, Sitapur,
Kheri, Hardoi.

BAREILLY

10 Districts Absorbed

Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Pilibhit,
Moradabad, Bijnor, Badaun,
Saharanpur, Dehra Dun, Naini
Tal, Almorah.

Catchment Dashboards: The Strategic Hubs

ALLAHABAD

9 Districts Absorbed

Allahabad, Banda, Hamirpur,
Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun,
Cawnpur, Fatehpur,
Partabgarh.

BENARES

8 Districts Absorbed

Benares, Ballia, Ghazipur,
Mirzapur, Jaunpur, Azamgarh,
Gorakhpur, Basti.

Catchment Dashboards: The Western Flank

AGRA

7 Districts Absorbed

Agra, Etawah, Mainpuri,
Aligarh, Bulandshahr,
Meerut, Muzaffarnagar.

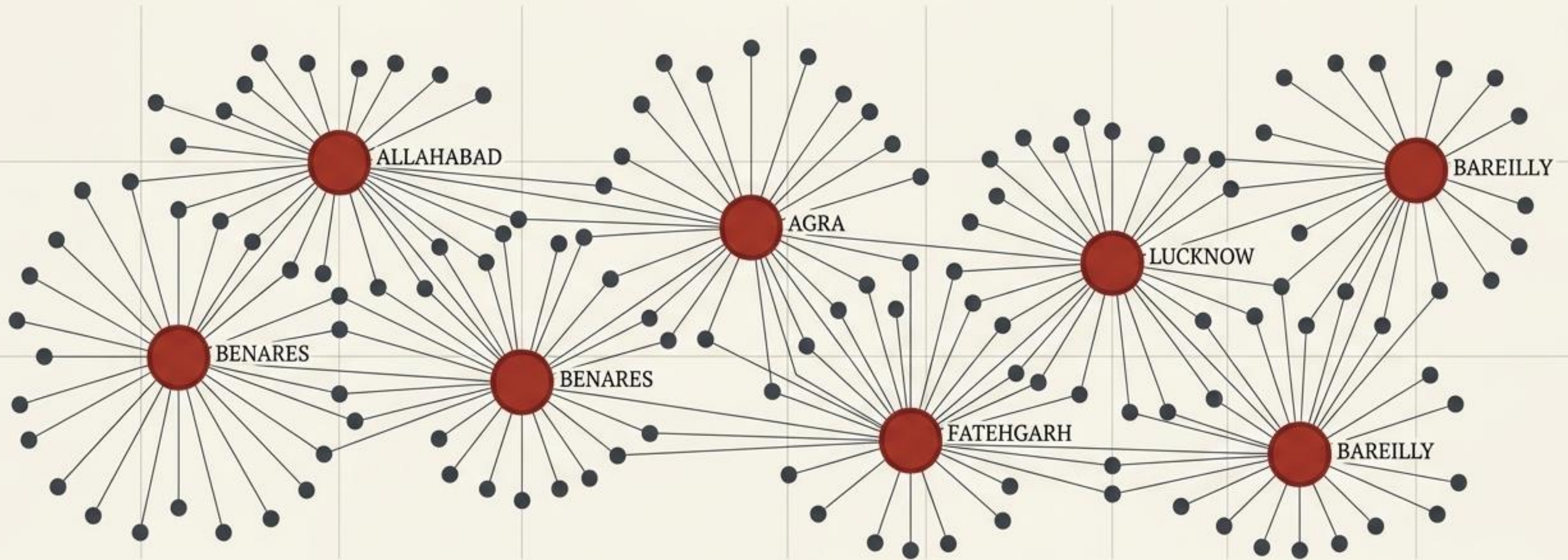
FATEHGARH

3 Districts Absorbed

Farukhabad, Etah, Muttra.

Fatehgarh receives less than a third of the influx directed toward Lucknow, indicating significant regional disparities in railway expansion, crime rates, or prison infrastructure.

Synthesis: The Scale of the Blueprint



Circular No. 2 was not merely a list of transfers. It was the blueprint for a highly organised, province-wide dragnet—drawing 48 local jurisdictions into 6 central hubs to defend the critical arteries of the British colonial economy.