

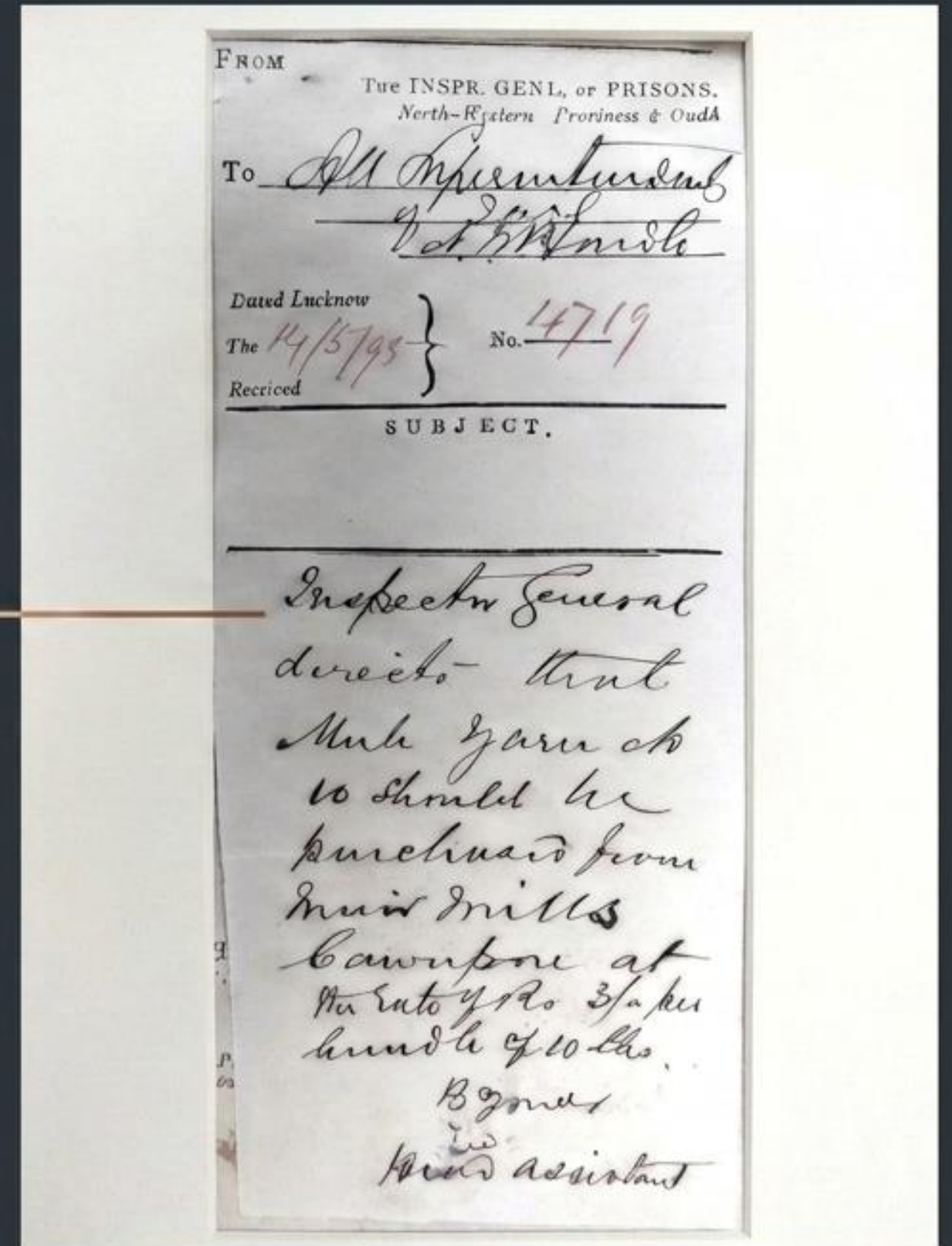
North-Western Provinces & Oudh

Forensics of a Colonial Memo

Deconstructing an 1895
Prison Administration Order

CRIMINOLOGICAL INSIGHTS

BY DR. MRIDUL SRIVASTAVA



1895 Colonial Directive: Prison Procurement Protocols

Administrative Overview



Dispatch Details

DISPATCHED: Lucknow under official memorandum number 4719.



Authorising Body

FROM: Inspector General of Prisons, North-Western Provinces & Oudh.



Distributed to All Superintendents

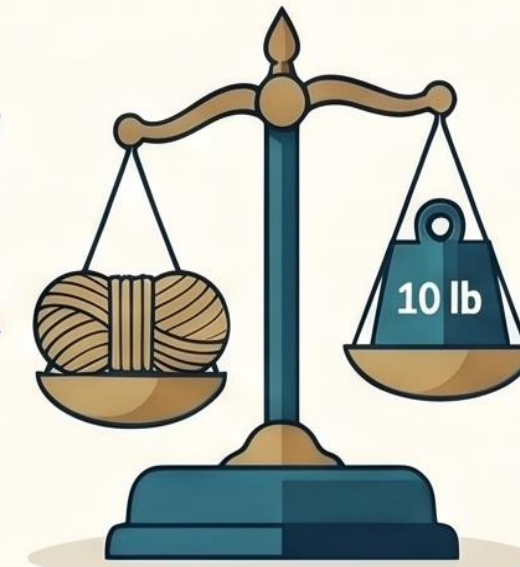
INSTRUCTION: Blanket order for all jail administrators within the province.

Procurement Specifications



Fixed Rate of Rs. 3/8

PRICE: 3 Rupees and 8 Annas per bundle.



Unit Measurement

PROCUREMENT BASIS: calculated based on standard bundles.

WEIGHT: 10 lbs each.

FROM THE INSPR. GENL., OF PRISONS,
North-Western Provinces & Oudh
To All Superintendents
J. A. M. M. M.

Dated Lucknow }
The 14/5/95 } No. 4719
Received }

SUBJECT.

Inspector General
directs that
Muh yarn should
be purchased from
mill mills
Cawnpore at
the rate of Rs. 3/ per
hundred lbs.
B. G. M.
Asst. Assistant

The Raw Artefact

Historical research begins with the physical page. Before we can understand the systemic economics of colonial India, we must first decipher the ink.

**Inspector General directs that
Mule Yarn No 10 should be
purchased from
Muir Mills Cawnpore at
the rate of Rs. $3/4$ per
bundle of 10 lbs.**

Spatial and Temporal Coordinates

Dated Lucknow
The 14/5/95-

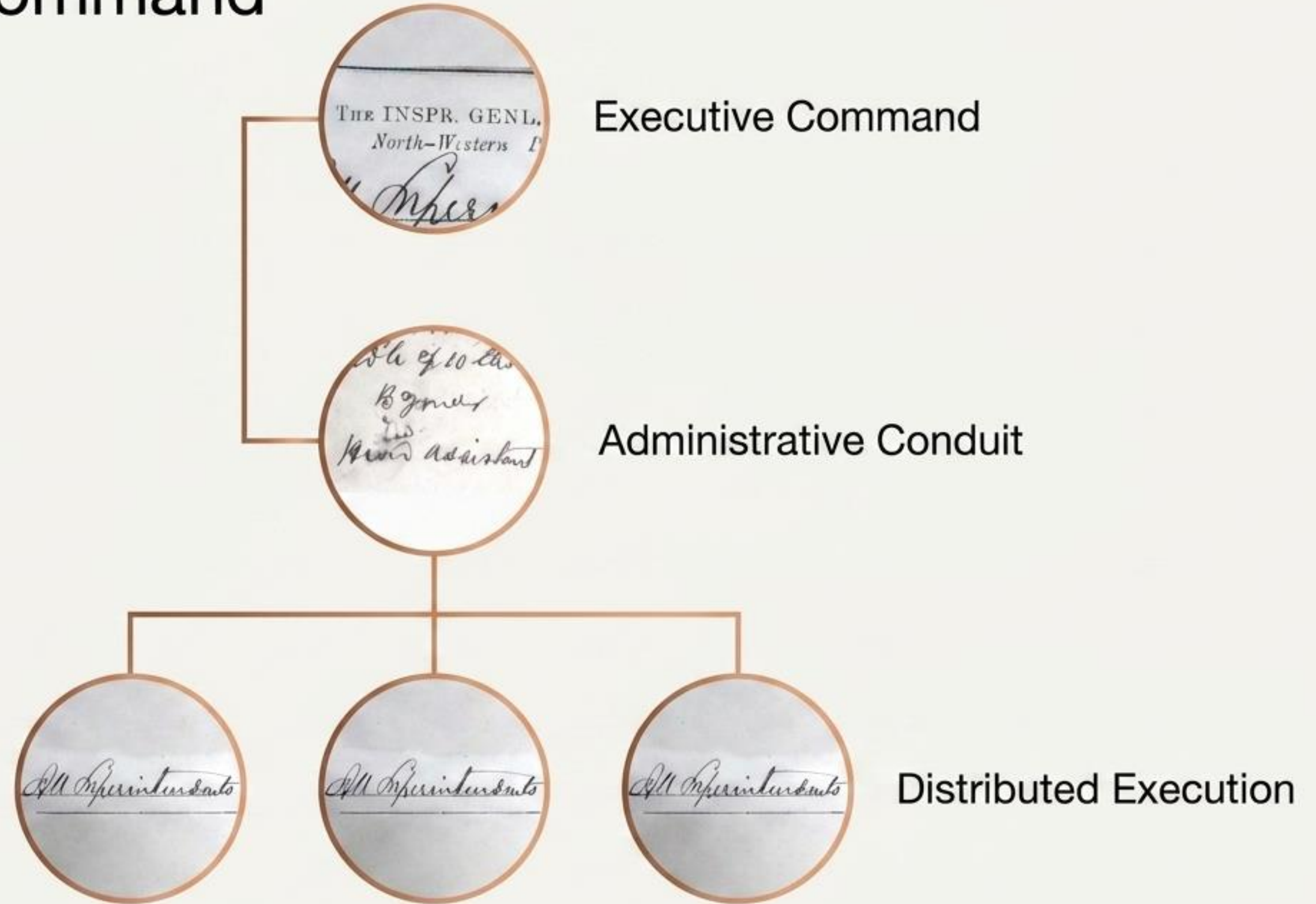
Date: 14 May 1895

Locus of Authority: Lucknow
(Capital of Oudh, administrative hub)

No. 4719

Filing Index: Order No. 4719
(Indicates a high-volume, routinised bureaucratic system)

The Chain of Command



The Institutional Entity Matrix

The Authority

Entity: Inspector
General, Lucknow

Role: Command &
Capital Allocation

Function: Dictates
procurement policy
across the province.

The Executors

Entity: Superintendents
of Jails, N.W.P. & Oudh

Role: Consumption &
Labour

Function: Operates
prison industries;
receives and utilises
raw materials.

The Supplier

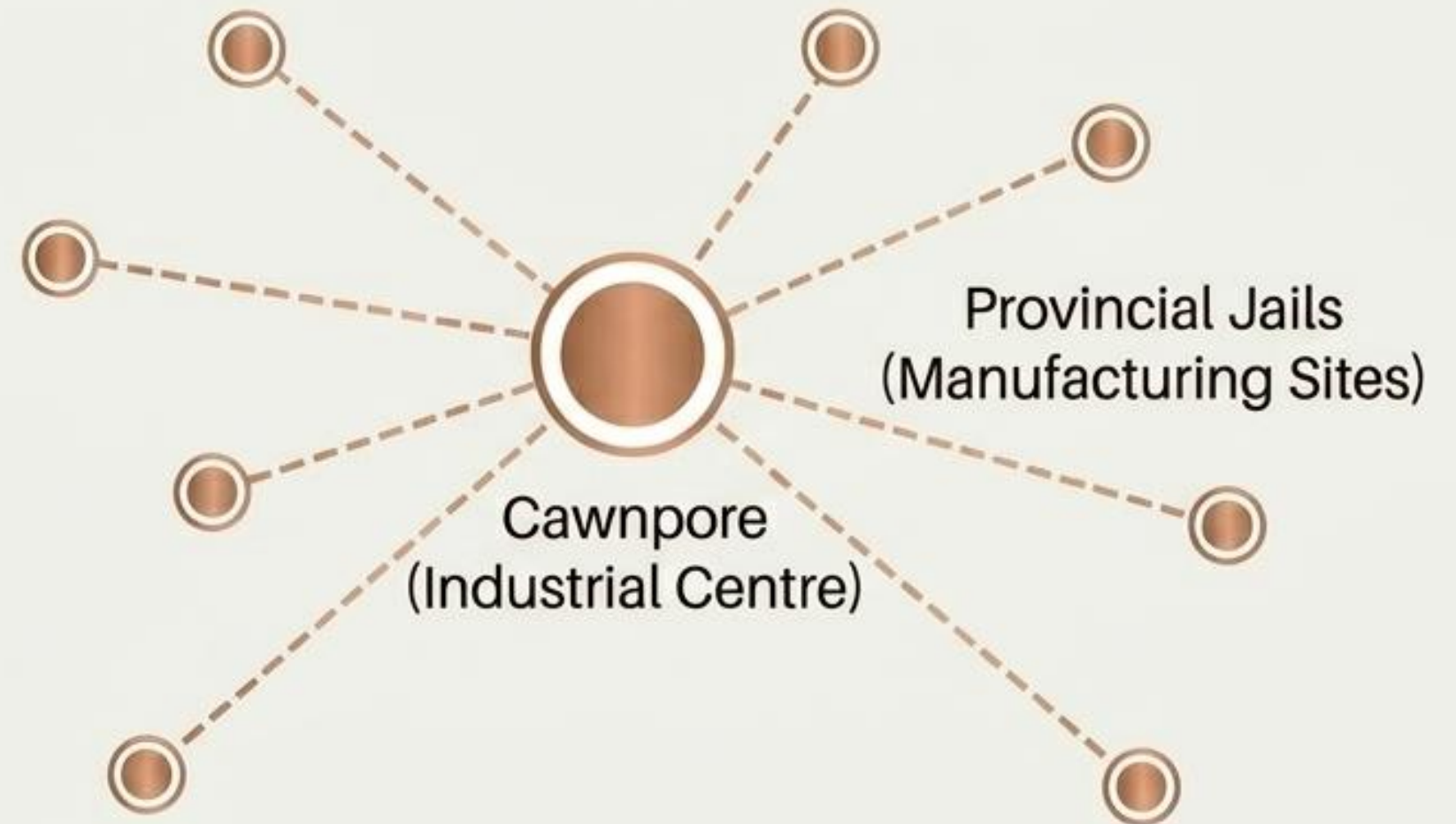
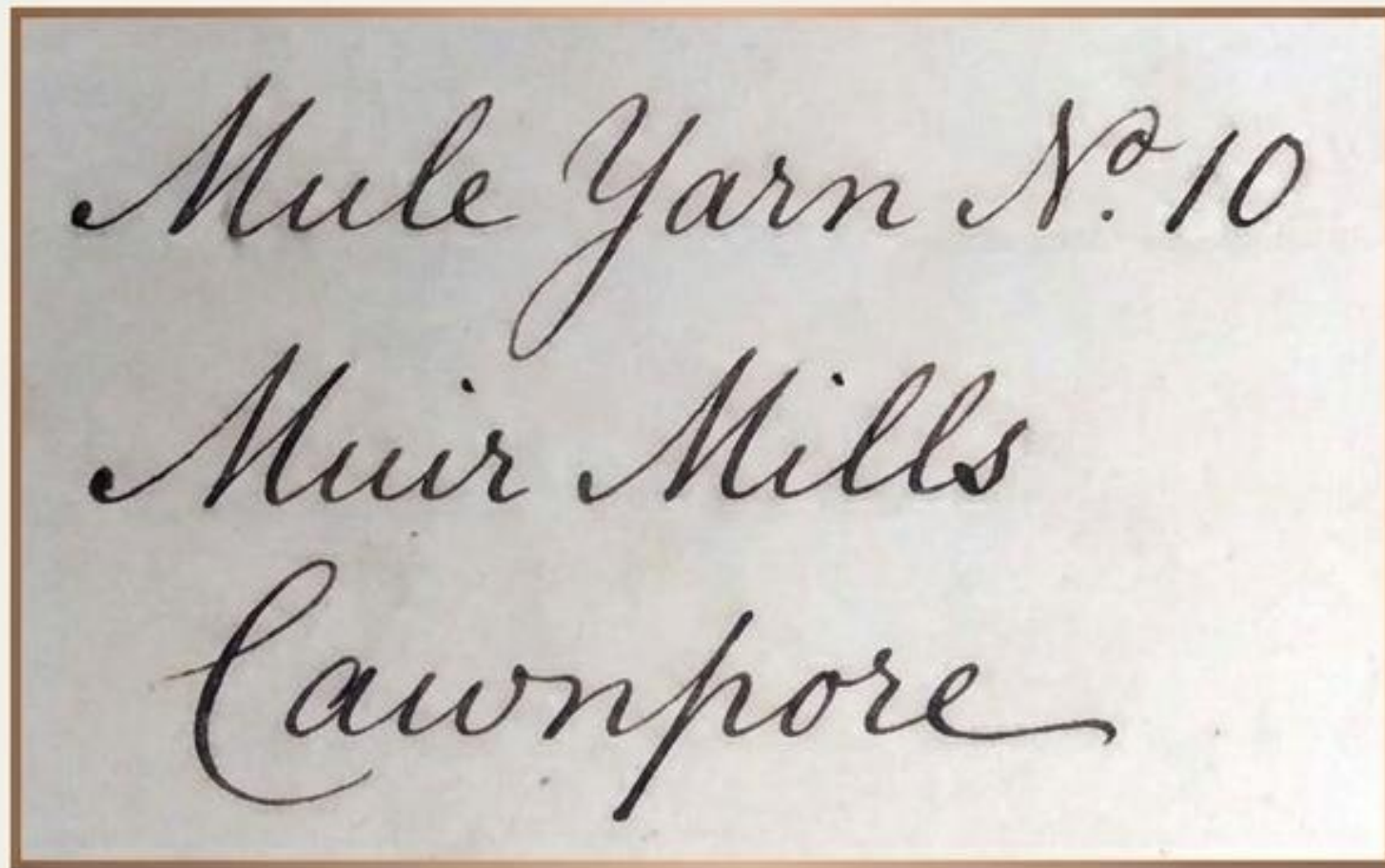
Entity: Muir Mills,
Cawnpore

Role: Industrial
Production

Function:
Manufactures the
mandated Mule Yarn
No. 10 for state
purchase.

The Commodity and the Source

- Mule Yarn No. 10: A specific grade of machine-spun cotton thread, essential for weaving prison garments or commercial textiles.
- Muir Mills, Cawnpore: Cawnpore (modern Kanpur) was the Manchester of the East, dominating North Indian textile manufacturing. This mandate forces provincial prisons to subsidise a specific private enterprise.



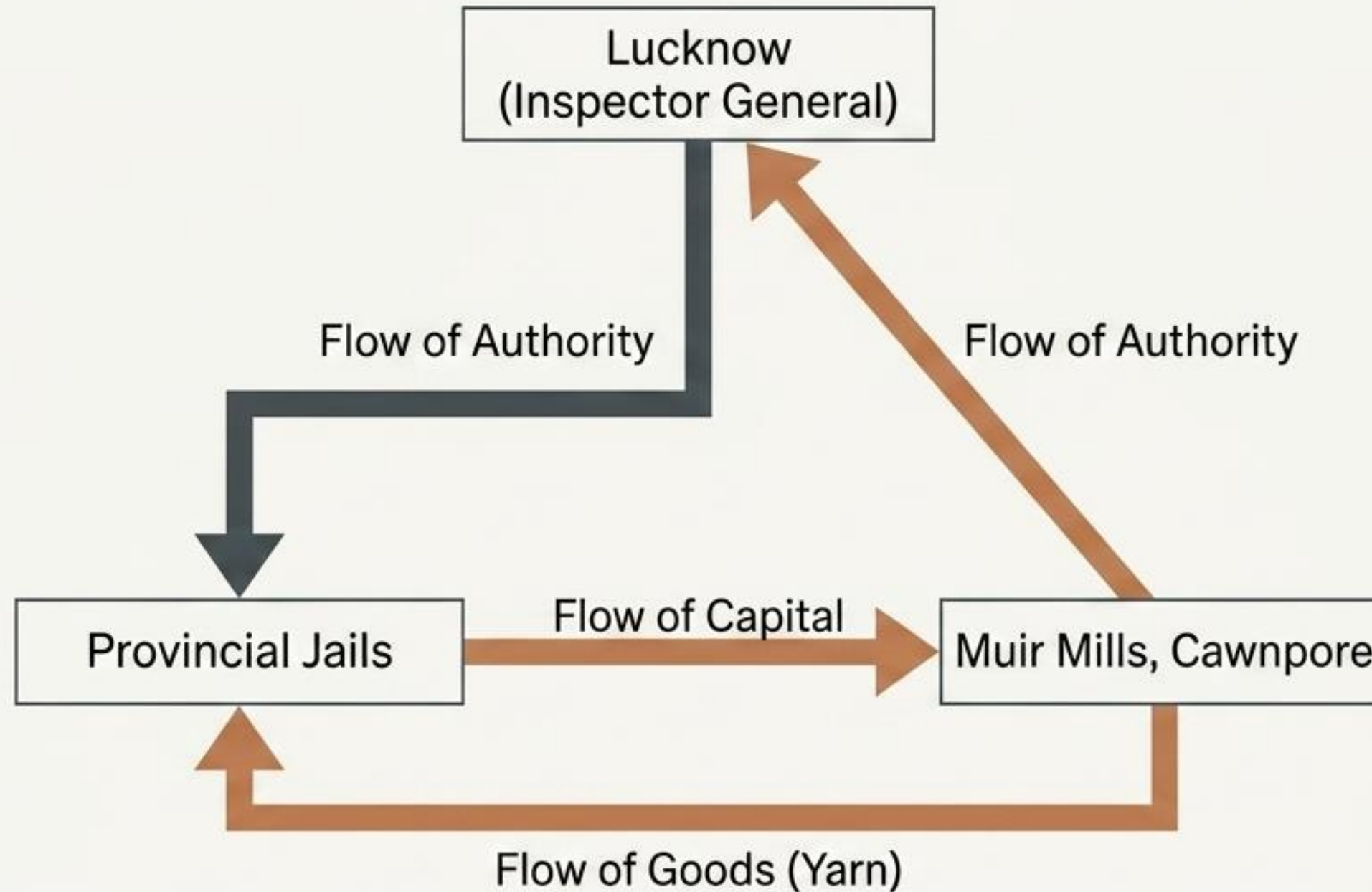
The Unit Economics

$$\text{Mule Yarn} + \text{Muir Mills} = \text{Rs. } \frac{3}{4} / 10 \text{ lbs}$$

Translation: Rs. 3/4 indicates 3 Rupees and 4 Annas (there were 16 Annas to a Rupee).

Context: Establishing a fixed provincial rate eliminates local price negotiation by individual jail superintendents.

The Prison-Industrial Ecosystem



A single memo dictates a closed-loop economy: central authority mandates local budgets to be spent at a specified industrial monopoly, converting prison populations into captive consumer markets for Cawnpore textiles.

A System in a Single Page



An archivist does not just read words; they reverse-engineer systems. This routine 1895 order for cotton yarn encodes the entire administrative, geographic, and economic architecture of the North-Western Provinces.