CHAPTER - I

PRELIMINARY

1.01.   Short title and commencement.——

(1) These rules may be called the Indian Railways (Open Lines) General (Third Amendment) Rules, 2024. *(Item No.1 of AS-20 dt. 21.02.2025)*

(2) They shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

1.02.   Definitions.—— In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,–

(1) *"Act"* means the Railways Act, 1989 (24 of 1989);

(2) *"adequate distance"* means the distance sufficient to ensure safety;

(3) *"approach lighting"* means an arrangement in which the lighting of signals is controlled automatically by the approach of a train;

(4) *"approved special instructions"* means special instructions approved of or prescribed by the Commissioner of Railway Safety;

(5) *"authorised officer"* means the person who is duly empowered by general or special order of the Railway Administration, either by name or by virtue of his office, to issue instructions or to do any other thing;

SR 1.02.5. The Principal Chief Operations Manager is the authorised officer and is empowered to issue, amend or alter Subsidiary Rules.

(6) *"authority to proceed"* means the authority given to the Loco Pilot of a train, under the system of working, to enter the block section with his train;

(7) *"axle counter"* means an electrical device which, when provided at two given points on the track, proves by counting axles in and counting axles out, whether the section of the track between the said two points is clear or occupied;

(8) *"block back"* means to despatch a message from a block station intimating to the block station immediately in rear on a double line or to the next block station on either side on a single line, that the block section is obstructed or is to be obstructed;

(9) *"block forward"* means to despatch a message from a block station on a double line intimating to the block station immediately in advance the fact that the block section in advance is obstructed or is to be obstructed;