

## POINT AND CROSSING

Point and Crossings are peculiar arrangement used in permanent way (railway track) to guide the trains for directional change. The points and or switches aid in diverting the vehicles and the crossings provide gaps in the rails so as to help the flanged wheels to roll over them.

### NECESSITY OF POINTS AND CROSSINGS

Points and crossings are provided to help transfer railway vehicles from one track to another. The tracks may be parallel to, diverging from or converging with each other. Points and crossings are necessary because the wheels of rail vehicles are provided with inside flanges and, therefore, they require this special arrangement in order to navigate their way on the rails. The points or switches aid in diverting the vehicles and the crossings provide gaps in the rails so as to help the flanged wheels to roll over them.

### POINTS AND CROSSINGS IMPORTANT TERMS

- ① Facing Direction - If someone stands at toe of switch and looks towards the crossings, then the direction is called "Facing Direction".
- ② Trailing Direction - If someone stands at the crossing and looks towards the switches, then the direction is called "Trailing Direction".
- ③ Facing Points of Turnouts - These where trains pass over the switches first and then they pass over the crossings. These are important to specify when the direction of movement of trains is reserved for facing direction.



