

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA

CENTRE FOR BANKING AND INSURANCE LAWS

Single Credit Course on the
Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881



- 11th February to 25th February 2026



- ONLINE

ABOUT NLUO

National Law University Odisha ('NLUO'), Cuttack, established under Act 4 of 2008 by the Odisha State Legislature, has rapidly emerged as one of the country's premier institutions of legal education. Anchored in its vision to advance teaching, research, and dissemination of legal knowledge, the University is committed to nurturing professionals for Advocacy, Judicial Services, legal practice, and allied fields.

In a short span, NLUO has distinguished itself through socially relevant education and academic rigour, driven by a dynamic and committed faculty dedicated to holistic student growth. The University fosters an environment of intellectual exchange and academic flexibility, encouraging research through specialised centres and student-led societies.

Beyond academics, NLUO places equal emphasis on leadership, creativity, and emotional intelligence. Students are actively engaged in co-curricular and extra-curricular pursuits, including debates, cultural events, entrepreneurial initiatives, and recreational activities. With its focus on contemporary and technology-driven learning, NLUO offers a wholesome educational experience, producing graduates equipped to excel both professionally and personally.

ABOUT CBIL

The Centre for Banking and Insurance Laws ('CBIL') at National Law University Odisha ('NLUO') is dedicated to advancing research, knowledge, and capacity building in Banking, Insurance, Insolvency, and Fintech Laws. With faculty collaborations on projects with institutions like the Reserve Bank of India ('RBI') and the Institute of Insolvency Professionals of India, CBIL has emerged as a hub for thought leadership in financial law. Backed by NLUO's academic support, the Centre blends rigorous scholarship with practical exposure.

CBIL has spearheaded several initiatives, including a Double Credit Certificate Course on "Practical Aspects of Insolvency Law" in collaboration with Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India ('IBBI'), which attracted over 200 participants and leading experts. In September 2024, it hosted NLUO's First Annual International Conference on Finance, Economics, Banking & Insolvency Laws, creating a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue. The Centre has also launched The Finance Watch: An Annual Compendium of Banking and Insurance Law Updates (2022–2024) and organized an essay competition on Insolvency Law to enhance student engagement.

Through these efforts, CBIL continues to bridge theory and practice, shaping the next generation of financial law professionals and researchers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (“NI Act”) governs the use of negotiable instruments in India. This course aims to enlighten students about the recent amendments and trajectory of the NI Act with a special emphasis on S. 138, which deals with dishonour of cheques. The course objectives are to:

1. Provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, with specific emphasis on the legislative intent, evolution, and contemporary relevance of Section 138 in commercial transactions.
2. Examine the statutory framework, scope, and essential ingredients of cheque dishonour under Section 138, enabling students to appreciate its preventive and deterrent role in ensuring financial discipline.
3. Develop conceptual clarity on types of negotiable instruments, parties thereto, and the legal principles governing negotiation, endorsement, and transfer of such instruments.
4. Analyse the legal nature of cheques, including the implications of crossing, dishonour, and the corresponding rights and duties of bankers and other stakeholders.
5. Equip students with knowledge of procedural and evidentiary aspects under the NI Act, including statutory presumptions, burden of proof, and rebuttal mechanisms.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the historical evolution, objectives, and scheme of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, and its role in regulating modern commercial transactions.
2. Identify and apply the essential legal requirements of Section 138, including timelines, statutory compliances, and procedural prerequisites for instituting cheque dishonour proceedings.
3. Distinguish between various negotiable instruments, including promissory notes, bills of exchange, and cheques (including electronic and truncated cheques), and assess their legal implications.
4. Analyse cases of cheque dishonour, evaluate reasons for dishonour, and determine the resulting civil and criminal liabilities under the NI Act.
5. Apply statutory presumptions under Sections 118 and 139, assess the burden of proof, and evaluate rebuttal strategies based on factual and evidentiary considerations.
6. Examine corporate and vicarious liability under Section 141, including the standards for fastening liability on companies, directors, and officers.

RESOURCE PERSON

Prof. (Dr.) Dolly Jabbal

Prof. (Dr.) Dolly Jabbal is a distinguished academic in the fields of Banking Law and Property Law, with over 19 years of teaching and academic leadership experience at National Law Universities. She is the author of three books and thirteen scholarly articles, and is widely recognised for developing a strong interdisciplinary model for the study of law.



Prof. Jabbal has conducted capacity-building and skill-enhancement programmes for officials of PSUs, law-enforcement agencies (including prison officials and IPS officers), RBI officials, and practising advocates. She represented Gujarat National Law University at the World Deans' Conference, Vietnam (2013) and has extensive experience in academic administration, having served as Registrar (In-Charge) at GNLU (2010–2014), where she led the transition to the University's 50-acre permanent campus, and later at NLU Odisha (2014–2018). She has also served as Dean (Research & Internationalisation) and Controller of Examinations.

COURSE OUTLINE

Module I: Introduction to Negotiable Instruments Act and Section 138

1. Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 - Foundation and Evolution
 - 1.1 Historical background of the Act
 - 1.2 Introduction through the Banking, Public Financial Institutions and Negotiable Instruments Laws (Amendment) Act, 1988
2. Objectives and Scheme of the Act
3. Types of negotiable instruments and key Definitions
 - 3.1 Negotiable instrument
 - 3.2 Promissory note
 - 3.3 Bill of exchange
 - 3.4 Cheque (including electronic and truncated cheques)
4. Evolution and Role of the Act in response to the contemporary commercial needs
 - 4.1 Legislative intent: Creating deterrent effect while maintaining commercial utility of cheques
 - 4.2 Nature of Section 138

Module II: Essential Elements and Legal Requirements of Section 138

1. Detailed Statutory Framework
 - 1.1 Legislative history and amendments (1988, 2002, 2015, 2018)
2. Scope and applicability of Section 138

COURSE OUTLINE

3. Essential Ingredients of the Offence

3.1 Drawing of the cheque

3.2 Presentation within validity period

3.3 Dishonour

3.4 Demand Notice

3.5 Payment Grace Period

3.6 Failure to make payment within 15 days

3.7 Filing of Complaint

4. Parties to negotiable instruments

4.1. Legal roles of the parties

4.2. Rights and obligations

5. Negotiation, endorsement and transfer of negotiable instrument

5.1 Meaning & effect of Negotiation & Negotiable Instrument

5.2 Kinds of Endorsement

Module III: Cheque Dishonour under Section 138

1. Legal nature of Cheque under the NI Act

2. Crossing of cheques and its legal implications

2.1 Meaning, object and consequence of crossing

2.2 Types of crossing (General, Special, Not-Negotiable and Account Payee)

2.3 Rights and Duties of Paying banker

3. Dishonour of cheques

3.1 Meaning of dishonour under the NI Act

COURSE OUTLINE

- 3.2 Reasons for dishonour
- 3.3 Distinction between dishonour by non-payment and non-acceptance
- 3.4 Legal consequences and liabilities
- 3.5 Drafting the notice of dishonour in correspondence to section 138

Module IV: Procedural Law and Evidence For Section 138

- 1. Statutory Presumptions and Burden of Proof
 - 1.1 Section 118(a) - Consideration Presumption
 - 1.2 Section 139 - Holder's Presumption
 - 1.3 Rebuttal Methods - Direct/circumstantial evidence
- 2. Corporate Liability and Section 141
 - 2.1 Banker's Liabilities for unjustified dishonour of cheque
 - 2.2 Section 141(1) - Vicarious Liability Framework (in charge and responsible test)
 - 2.3 Section 141(2) consent/connivance/negligence
 - 2.4 Discharge from liability
- 3. Trial Procedure and Court Process
 - 3.1 Section 142: Written complaint requirement
 - 3.2 Section 143: Mandatory summary trial
- 4. Recent Judicial Stand on NI Act cases

COURSE DURATION

The total duration for the course is **16 hours**. The classes would be conducted tentatively on **Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.**

The course shall be conducted in an **online** format tentatively from **11th February 2026 to 25th February 2026.**

ATTENDANCE

Participants are required to maintain a **minimum attendance of 75%** throughout the course, with attendance documented at the conclusion of each module or session.

This virtual course mandates that only those meeting the attendance threshold will be eligible to undertake the Assessment Test.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE

The course evaluation will consist of an **assessment test** to be conducted at the end of the course, **worth 50 marks**, consisting of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) of 1 mark each.

The mode of the evaluation shall be **online**. The timings of the same shall be notified in due course.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

REGISTRATION FEE AND PROCEDURE

The course shall have a registration fee of Rs.250 for NLUO students and Rs.400 for students outside NLUO. The same shall be collected through online transfer.

The process for the payment of the registration fees is as follows:

- Visit: <https://eazypay.icicibank.com>
- Enter Institution Name as 'National Law University' and click on 'Go'.
- Fill the details.
 1. Email ID
 2. Mobile No.
 3. Amount
 4. Student Name (Enter your name)
 5. Roll No. (Enter your college roll number/ Enrolment number for NLUO student and enter 131 for others)
 6. Semester (Enter your Semester number for NLUO student and enter 11 for others)
 7. Year
 8. Payment Date
 9. Purpose (Mention "CBIL Credit course")
- Once required data is filled in click on 'Submit' after enter the captcha and OTP.
- After the payment you will get the auto generated payment receipt.

[Note: Payments made via any other payment platform than the one specified above would not be considered as valid registration.]

REGISTRATION FORM

After payment, the form for registration can be accessed [here](#).

The last date for registration for the course is 6th February, 2026.

All interested participants are required to complete the registration process by this date, as no registrations will be accepted thereafter under any circumstances.

[Note: The registration form will close at 11:59 PM and any payment for the course received thereon would not be considered a valid registration and CBIL takes no liability or responsibility to refund the same.]

DECLARATION OF RESULTS

The declaration of the results shall be done **immediately** after the conclusion of the assessment test for the course

The certificates shall be distributed **within 2 weeks** after the declaration of results.

CONTACT US

For any further queries or questions please reach out to us:

CONTACT US:

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(For any queries, please contact the above via Whatsapp preferably.)

SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES:

 <https://cbilnluo.com>

 [@cbil_nluo](https://www.instagram.com/cbil_nluo)

 [Centre for Banking and Insurance Laws, NLUO \(CBIL\)](https://www.linkedin.com/company/centre-for-banking-and-insurance-laws-nluo-cbil/)

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