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SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court

Cheque Bounce Cases Must Go to Trial Once Legal Ingredients Are Established

Sheikh Rayees • April 8, 2026

PUBLISHED REPORT

The Supreme Court has clarified that complaints arising from dishonoured cheques cannot be thrown out at the threshold when the foundational requirements of Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, are satisfied. The Court stressed that questions about whether a cheque was issued towards a legally enforceable debt must be tested during trial, not prematurely decided.

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