

Educate Collaborate Promote

Web3

Unpacked Monthly Newsletter Nov '23

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Understanding Stablecoins (1/4)

Understanding Stablecoins

Stablecoins have emerged as a critical component within the rapidly evolving landscape of crypto and the broader Web3 ecosystem. Stablecoins refer to a particular type of digital currency whose value is pegged to another asset class such as a fiat currency or gold, to stabilize its price.

As per Fitch ratings, the overall capitalisation of the stablecoin sector stood at around \$144 billion in December 2022, with a peak capitalisation of \$189 billion in April 2022, while a research report by Broker Bernstein estimated the stablecoin market to grow to \$2.8 trillion in the next five years from \$125 billion at present. As of the end of 2022, the three main stablecoin issuers, Tether (USDT), Circle (USDC), and Binance (BUSD) held a combined circulating supply of over \$127 billion, constituting almost 90% of the stablecoin sector.

Stablecoins are minted on the blockchain and can mostly be identified under one of four underlying collateral structures. These include stablecoins that are either fiatbacked, crypto-backed, commodity-backed, or algorithmic. While underlying collateral structures can vary, the main aim of all stablecoins remains to provide stability.

Fiat-backed stablecoins are backed 1:1 by fiat currency and are the most popular type of stablecoin. These stablecoins are backed by a reserve of traditional fiat currencies, mostly the US dollar. The Fiat collateral remains in reserve with a central issuer/institution such as a bank and must remain proportionate to number of stablecoin tokens the in circulation. Some of the biggest stablecoins in this category by market value include Tether (USDT). Fiat-collateralized stablecoins offer simplicity and ease of understanding, but concerns arise regarding centralization, transparency and policy sovereignty

As the name suggests, crypto-collateralized stablecoins are backed by another crypto as collateral. This involves the usage of smart contracts instead of relying on a central issuer.



Types of Stablecoins and Major Use Cases

In a crypto-collateralized stablecoin, smart contracts and blockchain are employed to manage the collateralization and maintain stability. When purchasing an algorithmic stablecoin, you lock your crypto into a smart contract to obtain tokens of equal representative value. Crypto-collateralized stablecoins aim for decentralization but are subject to the volatility of the underlying collateral.

Algorithmic stablecoins do not use fiat or another crypto as collateral. Their price stability results from the use of specialized algorithms and smart contracts that manage the supply of tokens in circulation. Algorithmic stablecoins adjust their token supply based on market conditions to maintain a stable value. It will reduce the number of tokens in circulation when the market price falls below the price of the fiat currency it tracks and increase the number of tokens if the price exceeds the fiat currency it tracks. While Algorithmic stablecoins do provide flexibility, they are complex and face challenges in maintaining stability.

Commodity-backed stablecoins are collateralized using physical assets like precious metals such as gold or silver, oil, and real estate. Gold remains the most popular commodity to be collateralized, with Pax Gold (PAXG) among the most liquid gold-backed stablecoins. However, commodities can fluctuate in price and therefore have the potential to lose value. Commodity-backed stablecoins can also help facilitate investments in assets that may otherwise be out of reach locally, offering a link to real-world assets, but commoditybacked stablecoins remain limited by the liquidity and stability of the chosen commodity.

Major Use Cases

Being an inherently stable asset, stablecoins make for a good store of value which increases the mobility of crypto assets. As stablecoins form a key element of the DeFi ecosystem with DeFi services such as lending and borrowing being heavily reliant on stablecoins, they have the potential to act as a bridge between the traditional financial markets and the rapidly evolving Decentralized Finance (DeFi) sector.

Being an essential part of the DeFi ecosystem, stablecoins help promote financial inclusion, providing unbanked individuals with access to financial services. They can help facilitate cross-border remittances, savings, and micro-payments and can support new business models by providing programmable money in the future.

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Understanding Stablecoins (3/4)

Growing Popularity and Key Risks

Further, stablecoins open up opportunities for trading and investment in the sector as it significantly reduces the risk of volatility, making it easier to integrate crypto into daily use activities.

Growing Popularity

Some of the biggest payment companies operating today such as PayPal and Visa have now begun embracing stablecoins in their operations:

- Recently, PayPal became the first major fintech firm to embrace digital currencies for payments and transfers as it launched a US dollar stablecoin. PayPal's stablecoin, dubbed PayPal USD, is backed by U.S. dollar deposits and short-term U.S. Treasuries and will be issued by Paxos Trust Co., and will gradually become available to PayPal customers in the United States.
- Visa, one of the global leaders in payments has had several pilot projects to settle fiat-denominated payments authorized over VisaNet. In a move to further modernize its cross-border money movement, Visa announced expanding its stablecoin settlement capabilities to the Solana blockchain and is working with merchant acquirers Worldpay and Nuvei to improve the speed of cross-border settlements.

 SG-FORGE, (a subsidiary of Societe Generale group dedicated to digital assets) launched CoinVertible, a stablecoin denominated in Euro, designed to bridge the gap between traditional capital markets and the digital assets ecosystem.

Key Risks

While Stablecoins hold the potential to promote financial inclusion, they also come with certain risks. These include risks related to the lack of transparency regarding the assets backing stablecoins, the risk of insufficient reserves in stablecoin platforms to return the collateral or convert tokens into USD or liquidity risks which can arise when platforms cannot issue stablecoins fast enough to match the demand.

Further stablecoins also suffer from risks related to software vulnerabilities and regulatory compliance, as jurisdictions worldwide are still developing clear guidelines for stablecoin issuance and operations.

Regulatory Overview

While stablecoins are currently not regulated by any central authorities, several jurisdictions have made significant progress in bringing regulations for the Stablecoin sector.

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Understanding Stablecoins (4/4)

Regulatory Overview

- As per the EU Markets in Crypto Assets (MiCA) regulation, stablecoins referred to as "e-money tokens" if linked to the value of a fiat currency, or "asset-referenced tokens" otherwise will have to hold suitable reserves, and be well-governed. The regulation states that stablecoins not pegged to an EU currency will be banned from having more than a million transactions per day, so as to not risk the euro being supplanted. The rules also apply to Terra-style algorithmic stablecoins.
- The Bank of England (BOE) and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) released discussion papers outlining their plans for regulating stablecoins in the UK on 6th November. The country plans to introduce specific legislation in Parliament in 2024, bringing the regulation of fiat-backed stablecoins under the mandate of the Financial Conduct Authority.
- The U.S. House Financial Services Committee advanced a bill to establish a federal regulatory framework for stablecoins, where the U.S. Federal Reserve would write the requirements for issuing stablecoins while preserving the authority of state regulators. The regulation would mainly focus on the rules for the registration and approval process for Stablecoin issuers.
- In June 2022, the Parliament of Japan passed a legal framework around stablecoins, which took effect in June 2023. As per the law, stablecoins were to be considered as digital money, which must be linked to the yen or another legal tender, guaranteeing holders the right to redeem them at face value. The regulation also stated Stablecoins could only be issued by licensed banks, registered money transfer agents and trust companies.

The FSB framework within the Synthesis Paper provides detailed recommendations for both VDAs and Global stablecoins.

The Synthesis Paper recognised the unique risks posed by Global Stablecoins (GSCs), vulnerable to loss of confidence and bank-run type dynamics which could also pose heightened macroeconomic and financial stability risks. It offered specific recommendations designed to complement the broader VDAs regulatory framework while addressing the heightened risks associated with GSCs by requiring Stablecoin issuers to provide authorities with transparent information on governance, operations, risks, and financial conditions.

To realize the full potential of stablecoins for the development of the DeFi ecosystem and the broader Web3 sector, issues related to liquidity, security and global clarity on the regulation of stablecoins must be addressed to counter any emerging risks to financial stability.

Noteworthy Activities of the Association (1/4)

TexFuture

Nov '23



BWA Chairperson Mr Dilip Chenoy attended the Investors Conference: 'Envisioning a Thriving Future for the Textile & Apparels Industry in Maharashtra' held on 1st November 2023 in Mumbai. He also participated in a Panel Discussion on 'Use of alternative & emerging technologies for ensuring sustainability in the textiles industry, while developing readiness for future skills' and emphasised the pivotal role of Web3 and traceability in revolutionizing the textile supply chain, creating a more transparent, ethical, and sustainable supply chain.

He also spoke about how the integration of these emerging technologies enables safer and more immersive training methods, ultimately boosting productivity and preparing the sector for the skills needed in the future.



BWA Chairperson Mr Dilip Chenoy (Centre) with Mr. Srinath Sridharan (Right) and Mr. Ashish Chandra (Left) at the RBI College of Supervisors Panel Discussion in Mumbai in 3rd November 2023.

BWA Chairperson Mr Dilip Chenoy was part of the panel discussion on 'Digital Assets & Resilience in the Financial System' organized by the College of Supervisors - Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank for International Settlements in Mumbai on 3rd November 2023 for the Officers from Grade B to E of Department of Supervision, Department of Regulation, Financial Stability Unit and Enforcement Department of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Noteworthy Activities of the Association (2/4)

IIT Kanpur Non Core Weekend Web3 Workshop

26th-27th Oct 2023



The Bharat Web3 Association in collaboration with IIT Kanpur organized a workshop on "Web3 Revolutionizing Finance and Analytics", which covered various domains of Web3 and Blockchain. BWA members took the opportunity to discuss the complex yet emerging Web3 domain, touching upon the relevant Legal and Policy Considerations in this ever evolving space, addressing key data analytics challenges, shedding light on the latest web3 data trends and offering valuable insights into the future of Web3 analytics.

The workshop was live-streamed, reaching students all across IIT Kanpur making it an inclusive event.

BWA MoU with the Maharashtra State Skills University 16th November 2023



Mr. Rajagopal Menon (WazirX) represented the BWA at the signing of the MoU with Maharashtra State Skills University (MSSU) in Mumbai with Dr. Apoorva Palkar, the Founding Vice Chancellor of MSSU.

The Bharat Web3 Association (BWA) and the Maharashtra State Skills University Sign Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate and foster the development of skilled talent within the Web3 ecosystem in India. BWA and MSSU will collectively engage in initiatives aimed at enhancing skill development, education, and research in the field of Technology. The primary objective of this collaboration is to facilitate relevant skills training and education to cultivate proficient individuals within the Web3 domain, making them sector-ready and employable.

Read it here!

Nov '23

Noteworthy Activities of the Association (3/4)



Revision in ASCI Guidelines for the VDA Sector

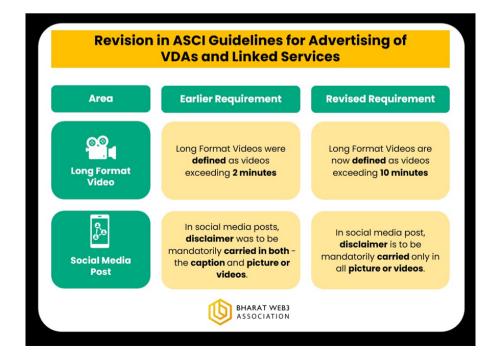
On 3rd November, the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) came out with revised 'Guidelines for Advertising of Virtual Digital Assets and Linked Services'. The BWA would like to extend its gratitude to Ms. Manisha Kapoor and the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) for the same.

BWA had been engaged with ASCI over the past few months and held several rounds of discussions regarding the revision in these Guidelines to better reflect the evolving landscape for Web3 in India. The following revisions have been made to the Guidelines.

1. The removal of the requirement to carry the disclaimer in the caption of a social media post. The requirement for carrying the disclaimer is now limited to only all pictures and videos in the social media post.

Revision in the definition of a long-format video, which will now be categorized as any video exceeding
minutes. Previously it was considered to be any video exceeding 2 minutes.

The BWA would like to thank the team at ASCI for their consistent support to the Web3 sector and commitment to consumer safety. BWA will continue to engage with ASCI to promote responsible advertising and consumer interest.



Read it here!

Noteworthy Activities of the Association (4/4)



BWA welcomed new affiliates to the Association!



Kreatorverse consists of engineers of Low-code & No-code toolsets for Web3 product owners, managers, designers, and web3 entrepreneurs (kreators) ecosystem. It assists startups and enterprises in adopting the right web3 strategy and evolving their Web3 (DeFi, DID, NFT, Crypto, DEX, DAO) ideas into market-testable secure & usable applications in a short timeline using its easy-touse toolsets.



Quillhash Group is a dynamic force in the Web3 ecosystem, dedicated to accelerating the growth of cutting-edge Web3 products and supporting entrepreneurs through its extensive ecosystem. With over 5 years of experience and 50+ ecosystem leaders, Quillhash has helped over 2000 Web3 projects thrive. It's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering collaboration sets it apart as a leader in the space.



Dawneesh Shaktivats is an experienced advocate with a demonstrated history of working in the legal services industry, skilled Case Management and Project Management with court appearances at different forums including Supreme Court of India, High Courts, NCLT, NCLAT, APTEL, CERC, State Commission, ED & CBI Matters and District Courts including handling of matters pertaining to crypto, web3, arbitration and mediation.

We are excited at the possibilities enabled by these partnerships to take Web3 to even greater heights in India and around the world

Policy Update

Policy Recommendations for Crypto and Digital Asset Markets (1/2)

Key Recommendations of the IOSCO Report

The International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), the global standard securities setter for market regulators published its final report with 18 principlesbased policy recommendations for the regulation of crypto and digital asset (CDA) markets on 16th November 2023. The recommendations form a key component of the international framework for the crypto markets envisaged by the G20 and FSB.

These recommendations were developed under IOSCO's Fintech Task Force, and aim to support greater cross-border consistency in regulatory approaches across jurisdictions. IOSCO has preferred using a functional economic approach to mitigate against the risks to come up with the recommendations instead of a one-size fits all prescriptive taxonomy.

The detailed recommendations play a crucial role in formulating a unified global regulatory approach to address the substantial risks to consumer protection and market integrity posed by crypto asset service providers (CASPs).

According to the report, regulatory expectations can be addressed by applying existing rules or creating new ones, depending on the jurisdiction. The aim is to tackle the identified critical areas of harm in these markets. The recommendations focus on six key risk dimensions:

- Conflicts of interest arising from vertical integration of CDA activities and functions (e.g., exchange, brokerage, custody) under one entity.
- Market manipulation, insider trading and fraud enabled by fragmented crossborder markets.
- Cross-border regulatory arbitrage risks from differential rules and cooperation.
- Inadequate custody and client asset protections at crypto-asset service providers.
- Operational and technological vulnerabilities to cyber risks and flaws in smart contract code.
- Direct retail access raising investor suitability issues given speculative nature and volatility.



Policy Update

Policy Recommendations for Crypto and Digital Asset Markets(2/2)

Nov '23

Key Recommendations of the IOSCO Report

The report takes an activities-based, life cycle approach targeting crypto-asset service providers active across these functional areas – from issuance, listing, trading and lending to custody and distribution. Using IOSCO's principles for securities regulation, the recommendations seek to extend traditional market integrity and conduct expectations to crypto-asset activities posing similar risks. This covers governance, disclosure duties, admission standards, segregated custody, market surveillance systems and international cooperation.



Additional guidance addresses applying recommendations to stablecoins given their rising importance. This includes expectations around reserve asset disclosures, rights of holders, and "run" risks from confidence loss. Overall, IOSCO seeks through these recommendations to accelerate national rulemaking and align international regulatory approaches to crypto-asset markets.

In its submission to IOSCO, the Bharat Web3 Association had underscored the importance of a flexible approach towards Crypto-Custody Providers while maintaining adequate safeguards for investor protection.

News Round-Up

Key Highlights for the Month (1/3)

National News

CoinDCX enters into a collaboration with The Sandbox to develop metaverse and Web3.0 understanding

Nov 30: CoinDCX announced its collaboration with The Sandbox, a blockchain gaming platform under Animoca Brands, with the partnership taking centre stage in BharatBox, a metaverse hub in The Sandbox spotlighting artists and brands from India.

CoinDCX will become an Ecosystem Partner for BharatBox and the collaboration will feature educational materials, AMAs, and efforts to establish a knowledge base about the metaverse and Web3.0 technologies.

Read more

Boosting Web3: 100 Indian Developers Contribute to 38 XR Projects

Nov 23: As part of the XR Open Source Fellowship program, 100 developers have been working on XR technologies with an aim to expand the Web3 talent pool in the country.

The fellowship offers developers an opportunity to explore limitless possibilities offered by XR with the short-listed candidates getting the opportunity to contribute to 38 open-source projects listed by 24 partner organizations.

The XROS program was organized by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in association with Meta. **Read more**

India's finance minister updates on implementation of G20's crypto regulation roadmap

Nov 24: At a press briefing after the virtual G20 leaders summit, Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman provided an update on the implementation of the 'G20 roadmap on Crypto Assets'. The G20 has formally adopted the crypto regulation roadmap, which outlines a framework for addressing the associated risks and opportunities of crypto assets. She added that there is yet to be a timeline for countries to implement the roadmap, but the presidency of Brazil will provide more clarity.

Read more

Govt, IIT-Delhi join hands to offer courses in AI and blockchain tech

Nov 7: In a major boost to state's education sector, IIT Delhi and the state department of technical education, skill development and employment have set up centres of excellence in fields of artificial intelligence, internet of things, blockchain technology and computer vision (AR/VR) for training students. The courses are being launched for third year and final-year students of BE and BTech.

Read more

News Round-Up

Key Highlights for the Month (2/3)

International News

Transak Joins Forces with Blockchain Game Alliance to Revolutionize Web3 Gaming Onboarding

Nov 28: Transak, a Web3 onboarding solutions company announced its new membership with the Blockchain Game Alliance (BGA). an organization focused on promoting the adoption of blockchain within the gaming industry.

<u>Read more</u>

Billionaire Mark Cuban Wants to Tap Blockchain for Real Estate Innovation

Nov 27: Mark Cuban has proposed using blockchain for real estate following a citybuilding suggestion from Jason Calacanis. **Read more**

Animoca Brands takes position in UAEbased blockchain gaming studio, Farcana

Nov 27: Farcana, a gaming startup headquartered in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has successfully secured strategic investment from Animoca Brands.

Read more

Cardano enters beta test phase for new blockchain-based AI chat bot Girolamo

Nov 26: CardanoGPT announced the beta launch of Girolamo, an Al-powered chatbot, a significant step in its commitment to integrating artificial intelligence (AI) with blockchain technology.

Read more

Blockchain.com raises \$110M in funding led by Kingsway Capital

Nov 28: Blockchain.com, a crypto exchange and wallet service, announced Tuesday that it secured \$110 million in late-stage funding led by Kingsway Capital in its Series E strategic financing round.

Read more

EMURGO Announces Partnership with Institute of Blockchain to Expand Web3 Education Offerings

Nov 27: EMURGO Group Pte. Ltd. ("EMURGO"), today announced an educational partnership with Institute of Blockchain® Ltd ("IBS") to further expand its catalog of blockchain education courses and credential new blockchain professionals.

Read more

Standard Chartered's Zodia Markets integrates EUROC stablecoin for FX

Nov 27: Paris Zodia Markets, an indirect subsidiary of Standard Chartered, said it integrated Circle's EUROC stablecoin into its OTC crypto brokerage and exchange.

Read more

European regulator: CASPs should work on protocol interoperability, self-hosted wallets

Nov 24: The EU's banking regulator, the European Banking Authority (EBA), wants to update existing AML and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) rules for crypto providers.

News Round-Up

Key Highlights for the Month (3/3)

International News

APAC leads in Web3 gaming development

Nov 23: Web3 gaming thrives with APAC's development and US funding, showing stable post-2022 investments and diverse genres, with the US remaining a key market.

Read more

Belgium plans to develop a European blockchain infrastructure during its EU presidency

Nov 23: The Belgium has revealed plans to develop a European Blockchain infrastructure during its upcoming Council of the European Union presidency in early 2024.

Read more

Canadian regulator seeks feedback on crypto asset exposure disclosure requirements

Nov 20: Canada's Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) has opened a consultation period on crypto-asset disclosure requirements for federally regulated financial institutions.

<u>Read more</u>

Singapore unveils regulatory framework for stablecoins

Nov 20: The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) recently unveiled a regulatory framework aimed at enhancing the stability of single-currency stablecoins.

Read more

StanChart launches blockchain unit, eyes Singapore bond fund

Nov 14: Standard Charted launched a new blockchain unit named libeara with the aim of helping tokenizing traditional financial instruments to stake out a bigger presence in Asia.

Read more

Venture Capital Lightspeed Faction Starts \$285M Fund for Blockchain Startups

Nov 9: The Lightspeed Faction, a blockchainfocused venture capital (VC) firm, is starting a new \$285 million fund that will primarily invest in early-stage projects.

Read more



Use Cases

Karnataka to use blockchain-based seed traceability to support farmers

- The Karnataka government has decided to implement blockchain-based seed traceability across the state in order to ensure that genuine seeds reach farmers.
- agriculture • As per officials from the department, the move will bring transparency seed distribution, guarantee to seed authenticity, and reduce instances of pilferage.
- We successfully piloted blockchain-based seed tracking in Mysuru, and now we plan to expand it state-wide starting from this Kharif season.
- The implementation will involve the use of QR codes for seed tracing from production to distribution.
- The initiative will help prevent the circulation of counterfeit seeds and ensure that farmers receive high-quality seeds.
- The initiative will also enable real-time tracking of seed distribution to farmers.

Raigarh Adopts Blockchain for Monitoring Industrial CSR Tree Plantation

- The Raigarh District Administration has launched a sustainable Blockchain Based Monitoring System for tracking industrial Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) plantation activities in the city.
- Utilizing NEAR Protocol's fast and low cost operational platform and the innovative technological offerings of Airchains, the administration is determined to make significant elevations to the tree plantation mechanism to enable transparency, traceability, and accountability within the sector and regenerate its lost greenery
- The blockchain-based monitoring system, developed by Airchains, is focused on providing accurate, immutable, verifiable, and real-time information to the stakeholders of the project along with ensuring the listed industries are compliant with the regulations related to the plantation sector.
- The Blockchain bases monitoring system can monitor any deviation or delay in our progress and take the required corrective actions within stipulated time

Read more

<u>Read more</u>

Glossary Simplifying The Web3 World

Nov '23

Fiat Collateralized Stablecoins

Zero Knowledge Proof





Fiat Collateralized Stablecoins are digital assets that have financial reserves in fiat currency held by a regulated institution like a traditional bank. In short, compared to its three other counterparts, fiat-backed stablecoins are truly backed by real-world currencies. These coins can be used to purchase goods and services online, just like any other crypto.

A stablecoins value is tied to the price of the underlying asset, and not supply and demand. For example, 1 tether (<u>USDT</u>) should always be worth \$1, though market conditions can make it fluctuate. Zero-knowledge Proofs are cryptographic protocols that allow one party (the prover) to prove the knowledge of a piece of information to another party (the verifier) without revealing the actual information. The key property is that the verifier can be convinced of the truth of the statement without gaining any knowledge about the information itself.

In the context of Web3, ZKPs offer solutions to the privacy and security challenges faced by users and applications.



Glossary Simplifying The Web3 World

Layer 3 Solutions

Governance Tokens



Layer 3 blockchain scaling solutions offer enhanced scalability, interoperability, and cost-efficiency by building upon the foundations laid by Layer 1 and Layer 2 solutions, making blockchain networks more adaptable to future demands.

While L2 is for scaling, L3 is for customized functionality, where there is one layer of the stack to help applications scale, and a separate layer for customized functionality needs of different use cases. Governance tokens are used in various decentralised organizations and protocols to provide voting rights and decision-making power. This includes a decentralised exchange issuing governance tokens to its users, providing them with the ability to vote on proposals such as adding new tokens to the exchange, changing fee structures, or modifying trading rules.

Governance token use cases also include Decentralised finance (DeFi) protocols and blockchain gaming. They can be used in DeFi protocols to vote on changes to the protocol's smart contracts, determine interest rates, and fund allocation. For Gaming, it can provide players with more voting power, making them a shareholder of the game, giving the community a stake in the game or platform's future.

About Us

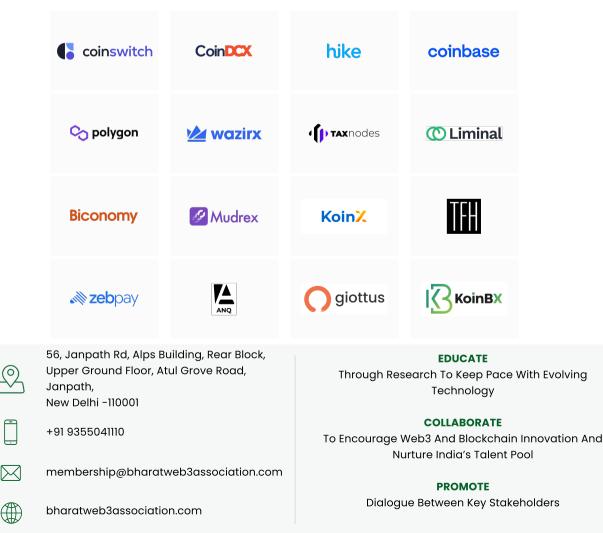
Bharat Web3 Association

Bharat Web3 Association (BWA), is a platform that brings together leading Web3 players to enable and support the growth of India's Web3 ecosystem which includes Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs), Web3 Developers and infrastructure providers.

BWA believes that India has the potential to lead the world over the next decade by building a strong Web3 ecosystem in the country, in line with the government's "Makein-India" and Digital India initiatives.



BHARAT WEB3 ASSOCIATION



Our Associates

