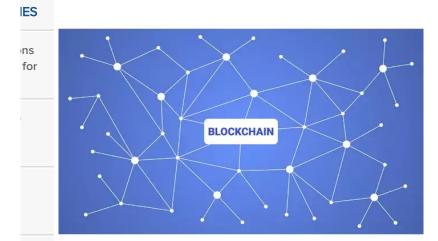
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IT Act needs amendment to boost blockchain tech, says cyber law expert

Shaukat Mohammed TOI-Online | May 16, 2018, 06:22PM IST



yderabad: The
Information
Technology Act of
2000 needs to be amended for
Indian companies to leverage
the emerging opportunities in
the blockchain technology
space, according to India's

"The amendment is required because the act was passed 18

leading expert on cyber law.

years ago at a time when Indian companies were emerging as world leaders in software coding. The amendment will need to include a framework to regulate and develop what I call the 3 sisters in emerging technologies—blockchain, artificial intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT)," says Pavan Duggal, a Supreme Court lawyer who specialises in cyber law, E-Commerce law and Intellectual Property Rights.

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Currently, India did not have any rules or framework to regulate blockchain, Al and IoT. These 3 technologies have the potential to be game changers, Duggal said by telephone from New Delhi on Tuesday. So India needs to quickly amend the law to ensure that Indian blockchain, Al and IoT companies can leverage it to scale up their operations, he said.

Various states in the Union too had the right to formulate rules for blockchain companies, to ensure that firms involved in crypto-currency like Bitcoins do not vanish with their clients' money, he said.



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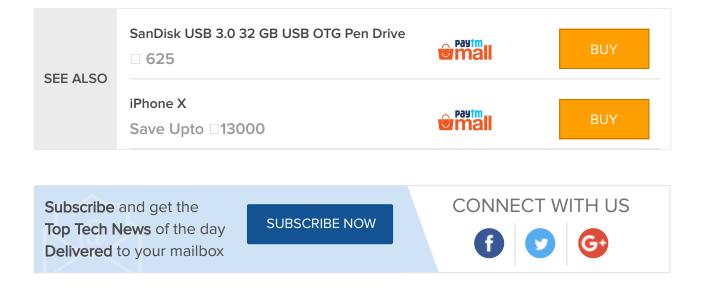


Referring to Andhra Pradesh, Duggal said AP is the first state to consider deploying blockchain in its land records department by 2019.

"But this requires enormous care to ensure the integrity of the technology deployed. In theory, blockchain technology allows for distribution of information but blocks its copying, but in real life we know that there is always the threat of manipulation of the records by interested parties. Andhra Pradesh therefore needs to have a secure ecosystem in place before deploying blockchain in the land records department," Duggal, who is considered to be among the top 4 cyber law experts in the world, said.

According to him, India does not have cyber security law in place, which also brought the security of the Aadhar card into question.

"Applying for the Aadhar identity was intended to be voluntary, but now the Aadhar card is being demanded for almost any public service, at a time when there is no ecosystem to protect Aadhar's security. With no adequate and robust information security measures in place, the private information of millions of citizens can be accessed by unscrupulous elements," Duggal said.



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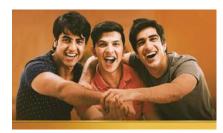
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