



About Arifa Khan

Arifa Khan is the founder & CEO of Himalaya - Capital Exchange, a next generation stock exchange on the Blockchain. It is a project aimed at creating a tokenised platform for Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) on a global, borderless, stock exchange. This Platform as a Service (PaaS) eco-system would offer an alternative to investment banks that are currently mandated to lead- manage IPOs, and give corporates and other entities raising public capital, a more democratic option at much less cost and with instant access to global investors. The platform would run on smart contract algorithms and at a later point make use of Machine Learning and AI in creating a marketplace for securities. Arifa is currently India Partner of the Ethereum Foundation, and has been a Blockchain evangelist since 2014.

Arifa Khan is a Blockchain researcher based in London, and has been an adviser to The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. She is currently building the Ethereum community in India and lobbying with the government on behalf of the crypto community. She is inspired by the vision of crypto founders Satoshi and Vitalik, and wants to contribute to realising their vision, and to build an architecture for big real world use-cases and explore intersection of futuristic technologies like AI, blockchain etc. Arifa also advises Govt. of India on infrastructure financing.

Arifa started her career with HSBC and was as a Ratings Manager at CRISIL, (now Standard & Poor's India), India's first rating agency, where she was responsible for credit ratings of several prominent companies like Reliance in sectors including Financial Services, Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare, FMCG, Chemicals, Telecoms and wrote hundreds of credit rating reports covering market, business and financial analysis. She has been an Investment banker with Credit Suisse & UBS and experienced in Leveraged Finance/ Financial Sponsors Coverage/ Debt Products/Capital Markets & Credit.

Arifa has been listed as a Top 100 Fintech influencer by Lattice 80. She was also listed in Economic Times 30 under 30. She is a widely published author in mainstream media. She has given keynote speeches as an internationally sought after speaker in over 10 countries across Europe, Asia, China.

She travelled to the USA in 2002 to pursue an MBA with Finance Specialisation at Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania. She was most excited when she saw Quantum Mechanics and Wave Theory come together with Financial Markets in Black & Scholes Options Valuation in professor Kavajecz's Course "Speculative Investments" and Jermy Siegel's "Securities Markets". She is mathematically gifted, and has obtained a Bachelor of Technology degree from the world renowned Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.