NEWSLETTER

August 2026 Edition

CoinDCX

— India Ka Crypto Coach —

Crypto Currents

Your Monthly Web3 & Crypto Policy Snapshot

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THE HEADLINES THIS MONTH

01 The US CLARITY Act was pushed to a September 14 Senate vote after the chamber deferred consideration before its August recess, with disputes over ethics provisions, stablecoin rewards and illicit-finance rules still unresolved, leaving America's core market-structure law in limbo.

02 The SEC formally published Regulation Crypto, proposing new exemption pathways for token offerings and a safe harbour for issuers completing essential managerial efforts, while Treasury proposed its first major rule implementing the GENIUS Act to define permitted stablecoin issuers.

03 JPMorgan, Bank of America, HSBC, Citigroup and Wells Fargo unveiled a joint blockchain network for tokenised commercial bank deposits, a direct response to stablecoin transaction volumes that rose 72% last year to roughly $33 trillion.

04 Mastercard completed its $1.8 billion acquisition of BVNK on August 3, becoming the first major card network to own rather than partner with stablecoin infrastructure, gaining access to a platform processing $30 billion in annualised stablecoin volume.

05 ESMA's authorised CASP register expanded to 321 providers while Coinbase secured Abu Dhabi ADGM approval to build an international tokenization hub, underscoring how institutional crypto infrastructure kept scaling globally even as US legislation stalled..

HERE'S A ROUND-UP OF EVERYTHING
that happened last month

KEY STORY | The US Crypto Framework Moves Ahead — Even as Congress Stalls

August exposed a growing tension at the heart of the US crypto policy agenda: Congress's market-structure legislation remains stuck, but the regulatory agencies are no longer waiting. The Senate pushed consideration of the CLARITY Act to September, while the SEC, Treasury and CFTC each advanced their own crypto-related initiatives. Together, these developments suggest that the US regulatory framework is beginning to take shape through a combination of legislation, agency rulemaking and existing statutory authority even before Congress settles the core question of market structure.

CLARITY Act Hits a Legislative Roadblock: The Senate confirmed that it would not vote on the CLARITY Act before its August recess, pushing consideration to September 14. The delay reflects unresolved disagreements over the bill's ethics provisions, stablecoin rewards, Agriculture Committee provisions and law-enforcement concerns around illicit finance. The significance of the delay goes beyond timing: CLARITY is intended to establish the underlying regulatory architecture for digital assets by defining the respective roles of the SEC and CFTC and establishing rules for market participants. Continued congressional uncertainty therefore leaves the US without a settled statutory framework even as the market continues to expand.

Agencies Begin Moving Without Waiting for Congress: The SEC formally published Regulation Crypto, proposing new exemption pathways for certain crypto offerings and a safe harbour for issuers that have completed the essential managerial efforts associated with a token. CFTC Chairman Mike Selig also directed staff to explore a framework modelled on the agency's existing designated-contract-market regime. Treasury, meanwhile, proposed its first major rule implementing the GENIUS Act, seeking to define which entities can qualify as permitted stablecoin issuers and how the new framework interacts with existing securities regulation.

Stablecoins Move Closer to the Payments Framework: Stablecoins have emerged as one of the clearest areas of regulatory movement. The Treasury's implementing proposal begins to translate the GENIUS Act into operational rules. At the same time, the Financial Accounting Standards Board proposed allowing certain fully reserved and redeemable stablecoins to qualify as cash equivalents under US GAAP. This is an important signal of institutional normalisation: stablecoins are increasingly being considered not simply as crypto assets, but as potential components of the payments and financial infrastructure.

■ **KEY TAKEAWAY**

August marked a notable transition in US crypto policy: Congress stalled, but regulation did not. While the CLARITY Act remains unresolved, the SEC, Treasury and CFTC are increasingly using their respective mandates to establish rules for crypto offerings, stablecoins and digital-asset markets. The emerging framework could ultimately combine congressional legislation with agency-level rules, but the longer this process remains fragmented, the greater the risk of regulatory overlap and uncertainty. The US's ability to reconcile these parallel efforts will be critical to determining whether it can translate its current regulatory momentum into a durable framework for crypto and tokenised financial markets.

Market Pulse

Key technical & financial indicators from this month

Now, before we go deeper into the regulatory updates from across the world, **let's get an update on some key technical & financial indicators from the markets**.

MARKET-WIDE METRICS

Metric	Value	MoM Change
Total Crypto Market Cap	$2.69T	**20.18%**
Total Active Crypto Addresses	350M	**1.45%**
Total Value Locked in DeFi	$84.75B	**14.67%**
DEXs Volume (August)	$204.84B	**21.43%**
Stablecoin Float (total m-cap)	$303.04B	**2.48%**
Total Tokenized Market Cap	$7.15B	**9.77%**

TOP CRYPTO ASSETS

Coins	Price (EoM)	Avg. Price	MoM Jump
BTC	$78,401	$70,218	**22.2%**
ETH	$2,453	$2,150	**29.7%**
XRP	$1.38	$1.22	**27.2%**
SOL	$102.76	$85.22	**37.5%**

Market Updates

Major launches, partnerships & institutional milestones

- Coinbase CEO credited President Trump for delivering on his "crypto capital of the world" pledge. Brian Armstrong said Trump recognized that millions of Americans had felt disenfranchised by the prior administration's approach to crypto, adding that "an incredible amount of progress" had been made toward that commitment since.

- Coinbase secured regulatory approval to build an international tokenization hub in Abu Dhabi's ADGM in mid-August, letting it issue fully backed tokenized securities with full shareholder rights from the hub and lifting COIN shares roughly 2.3% on the announcement.

- Citi announced it would launch digital asset custody later in the year, starting with Bitcoin, on August 18. The service would sit inside Custody+, a new Citi Investor Services platform, placing Citi alongside BNY Mellon, State Street and Standard Chartered in a widening group of custodian banks moving into native crypto custody.

- Visa unveiled a partnership and roadmap with Dunamu, operator of Korea's Upbit exchange, on August 26, covering stablecoin payments, global remittances and agentic commerce — marking the first adoption of Visa's enterprise stablecoin infrastructure by a top Korean financial group.

- OKX launched new European initiatives including the OKX Card, tokenized stocks and expanded pre-IPO access, shipping from August 18, responding to community demand for broader tokenized-asset access as it continued courting users displaced by Binance and Bybit Global's partial EEA exits under MiCA.

- Mastercard completed its $1.8 billion acquisition of BVNK on August 3, becoming the first major card network to own rather than partner with stablecoin infrastructure. The deal gave Mastercard immediate access to BVNK's platform, which processes roughly $30 billion in annualized stablecoin volume across 130+ markets with a client roster including Worldpay, Deel, Rapyd and Visa Direct.

- Kraken (via Krak) launched its multi-asset cashback debit card in the US on August 18. The Krak Card, issued by Lead Bank on the Visa network, let US customers spend from 600+ currencies and crypto assets while earning up to 2% cashback in dollars or Bitcoin, following more than 135,000 cards already issued since its UK/EEA launch.

- Ether.fi launched a next-generation crypto neobank on August 13, extending its restaking-native infrastructure into everyday consumer banking-style services, part of a broader wave of crypto-native platforms building neobank-style spending and account products in 2026.

Key Global Regulatory Moves

Region-by-region round-up

United States

- The Senate deferred consideration of the CLARITY Act until September 14, with disagreements over ethics provisions, stablecoin rewards, illicit finance and other outstanding issues still unresolved. The delay further compresses the legislative timeline and raises the prospect that failure of an initial procedural vote could push the bill beyond the November midterms.

- The SEC formally published its first major crypto-specific rulemaking, proposing exemption pathways for certain token offerings and a safe harbour for issuers completing essential managerial efforts. The proposal opens a 60-day comment period and marks a significant shift towards establishing tailored rules for crypto markets.

- Treasury proposed its first major rule implementing the GENIUS Act, including definitions for permitted stablecoin issuers and clarification of the framework's interaction with securities law. The proposal will be closely watched for its treatment of foreign issuers and the scope of the US stablecoin regime.

- The SEC's proposed innovation exemption for tokenised securities trading has been delayed amid concerns over market-structure implications, particularly the application of best-execution requirements to decentralised venues and automated market makers. The debate highlights the challenge of integrating blockchain-based market infrastructure into existing securities rules.

Europe & UK

- ESMA's latest register update brought the number of authorised CASPs to 321, while the non-compliant register reached 167 entities. The continued expansion of the authorised market alongside enforcement against unauthorised firms signals that MiCA is moving decisively from transition to consolidation.

- European platforms continued to remove non-compliant stablecoins, with Revolut confirming the delisting of USDT for EU users. While MiCA is reshaping stablecoin availability within the European market, the limited impact on global USDT demand underscores the continued international dominance of dollar-denominated crypto liquidity.

- The EU expanded restrictions under its Russia sanctions regime to bar Russian and Belarusian nationals from holding positions at MiCA-regulated firms and introduced a mechanism allowing crypto-transaction restrictions on third countries associated with systematic sanctions evasion. The measures extend crypto-specific compliance obligations into the broader sanctions architecture.

- The UK and US reaffirmed cooperation on stablecoins, digital-asset market structure and tokenisation, reinforcing a growing transatlantic effort to coordinate financial regulation. The discussions also reflect competitive pressure on the UK to maintain its position as the US accelerates its digital-asset framework.

- The UK government confirmed plans to give the Bank of England a secondary statutory objective supporting innovation in stablecoins and digital money, while retaining financial stability as its primary mandate. The move signals an effort to balance regulatory safeguards with the UK's competitiveness in digital payments.

Asia

- Russia's new digital-currency law takes effect from September 1, establishing a comprehensive framework for exchanges, brokers and custodians while limiting non-qualified retail investors to 300,000 rubles in annual crypto purchases per intermediary. The Bank of Russia will act as the primary regulator, marking a significant shift from prohibition-oriented policy towards controlled market participation.

- Taiwan proposed extending the FATF Travel Rule to all domestic VASP-to-VASP transfers regardless of value, with enhanced information requirements for larger transactions. The FSC also plans to extend the framework to cross-border transfers, strengthening Taiwan's AML/CFT framework for virtual assets.

- South Korea removed the threshold below which crypto transfers were previously exempt from the Travel Rule, while introducing risk-based controls for transfers involving overseas exchanges and personal wallets. The measures are accompanied by tighter VASP registration and financial-health requirements.

- Pakistan formally opened its crypto licensing regime under the Virtual Assets Act 2026, covering activities including exchange, custody, brokerage and derivatives. Firms have been given a September 5 deadline to seek regulatory approval or cease operations, marking the country's transition towards a formal licensing framework.

- Vietnam's tokenisation pilot advanced with five companies clearing an initial assessment for exchange licences, subject to stringent capital and cybersecurity requirements. The framework remains focused on foreign investors and non-securities real-world assets, reflecting a cautious approach to developing a regulated tokenised-asset market.

- Standard Chartered-backed Anchorpoint began the phased rollout of its HKDAP stablecoin for institutional and professional users, initially targeting cross-border payments and tokenised real-world assets. The launch demonstrates Hong Kong's effort to translate its stablecoin licensing regime into live institutional use cases

Middle East & Africa

- A five-agency Virtual Assets Coordinating Committee was inaugurated in Accra on August 25, 2026, chaired by Bank of Ghana Governor Dr Johnson Pandit Asiama, to coordinate implementation of Ghana's Virtual Asset Service Providers Act, 2025 across the central bank, SEC, finance ministry, Cyber Security Authority and Financial Intelligence Centre.

- South Africa proposed rules requiring offshore crypto transfers to be conducted through authorised providers and reported to the central bank's Financial Surveillance Department. The framework is intended to reduce regulatory arbitrage and strengthen monitoring of cross-border crypto flows and illicit financial activity.

- The Central Bank of Egypt announced regulations on August 23, 2026, governing its Digital Financial Identity platform, enabling remote account opening and banking product access via electronic know-your-customer (eKYC) verification and digital authentication

Latin America

- Brazil's central bank will require VASPs to impose precautionary holds of up to 24 hours on certain transfers above $10,000 to foreign platforms or self-custody wallets from January 2027. The measure strengthens fraud-prevention controls while preserving the ability to release funds earlier following a completed risk assessment. Brazil's securities regulator is also developing an experimental framework for tokenised securities, examining issues including ownership, key custody, reversibility and liability.

KEY UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES — [September 2026]

Date	Event / Release	Why it matters
10th – 19th September	**UN Blockchain Week, New York City**	A 10-day gathering timed to coincide with the 81st UN General Assembly session, featuring a flagship two-day conference on 16–17 September covering Bitcoin, AI, energy and institutional adoption. Brings policymakers, heads of state and institutional investors into direct dialogue with the crypto industry at a moment of intensifying global regulatory scrutiny.
16th – 17th September	**European Blockchain Convention (EBC12), Barcelona**	The 12th edition returns as Europe's first major institutional gathering since MiCA became fully law, with 6,000+ attendees and 300+ speakers. Focus shifts to what comes next under the regulation: CASP licensing, stablecoin issuance and the role of CBDCs in cross-border settlement.
29th September – 1st October	**Korea Blockchain Week (KBW) 2026, Seoul**	Asia's leading institutional digital-asset conference returns with Upbit, Korea's largest exchange, joining as Main Sponsor for the first time - beginning with a private institutional forum for policymakers and senior industry leaders before the main conference on regulation, AI integration and real-world adoption.

Annexure - Key Terminologies

Tokenized Securities – Blockchain-based digital representations of traditional securities enabling instant settlement and 24/7 transferability across networks.

Stablecoin Reserve Assets – Eligible backing instruments (cash, Treasury bills, money-market funds) that stablecoin issuers must hold to maintain full redemption guarantees under the GENIUS Act framework.

CRYPTO ASSETS	QTRLY TRADING VOL.	REGISTERED USERS	F.I.U.	ISO/IEC
500+	₹2.44L Cr+	2 Cr+	REGISTERED	27001:2022