iJRASET
International Journal For Research in Applied Science and Engineering Technology



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 13 **Issue:** VI **Month of publication:** June 2025

DOI: https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2025.72567

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International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)
ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538
Volume 13 Issue VI June 2025- Available at www.ijraset.com

Blockchain-Based Fund Management System for Indian Temples

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Abstract: ***This innovative system harnesses the power of blockchain technology to tackle ongoing governance issues in managing temple funds. By combining smart contracts with a secure and user-friendly digital interface, the platform guarantees tamper-proof recording and real-time tracking of donations. This decentralized approach significantly reduces the risk of fraud, boosts financial transparency, and builds stronger trust between devotees and temple authorities. Smart contracts streamline fund allocation and keep unchangeable transaction records, ensuring that donations are utilized precisely as intended. The system not only encourages ethical financial practices but also aligns with the larger mission of preserving cultural and religious heritage through responsible resource management. Moreover, the use of blockchain technology gives stakeholders enhanced control, auditability, and confidence in the donation process, ultimately aiding in the modernization and credibility of temple governance.***

Keywords: ***Decentralized ledger, Religious funding, Ethical finance, Cultural heritage preservation, Digital trust, Secure blockchain transactions, Immutable donation records, Financial accountability, Smart contract automation, Transparent temple governance, Donor empowerment, Real-time fund tracking***

I. INTRODUCTION

In today's digital world, technology is reshaping how organizations function, and blockchain is stepping up as one of the most significant innovations out there [1]. Essentially, blockchain is a distributed ledger system that enables secure, transparent, and permanent transaction records without needing centralized authorities. Thanks to cryptographic algorithms and consensus mechanisms, once data is recorded on the blockchain, it can't be changed, which greatly minimizes the risk of fraud, unauthorized alterations, or data loss. Its uses have expanded well beyond just cryptocurrencies, making waves in areas like voting systems, digital identity, asset tracking, and public administration [2]. Temples in India are crucial to both religious practices and community growth, attracting generous donations from millions of devotees every year.

These contributions whether in cash or gold are meant to support religious services, infrastructure, and welfare initiatives. Unfortunately, many temples still rely on outdated, manual donation management systems that lack transparency. This absence of real-time monitoring and digital accountability raises the risk of corruption, fund misallocation, and financial discrepancies, ultimately eroding trust between devotees and temple authorities [3]. By implementing a blockchain-based donation system, these issues can be tackled head-on, providing a secure, transparent, and automated way to manage funds, which can help restore faith and ensure that temple resources are used responsibly.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Blockchain technology, first introduced by Nakamoto in 2008 as the backbone of Bitcoin, has evolved into a flexible digital framework that finds applications in a variety of sectors [4]. Its decentralized nature and cryptographic security make blockchain an ideal solution for secure, traceable, and tamper-proof record-keeping across distributed networks. The use of consensus mechanisms like Proof of Work and Proof of Stake, along with smart contracts, allows for automation, transparency, and accountability without the need for central authority.

In the financial sector, blockchain has transformed traditional systems by enabling secure peer-to-peer transactions, real-time auditing, and fraud prevention. Treiblmaier (2018) notes that its transparent design is especially beneficial in environments that demand strict oversight and compliance. Additionally, blockchain has the potential to improve operational transparency for donation platforms and NGOs. Research by Lokuwaduge and Armstrong (2015) highlights trust and visibility as crucial elements for engaging donors, which blockchain can enhance by providing unchangeable donation records [5].

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While still a developing area, academic interest in blockchain's impact on religious fund governance is on the rise. Recent studies by Sharma and Prakash (2020) propose a decentralized approach to managing temple donations in India, focusing on real-time monitoring and ethical use of funds. Their research indicates that blockchain could act as a digital trust framework for religious organizations, helping to minimize mismanagement and bolster community trust.

III. METHODS AND METHODOLOGY

A. System Design and Architecture

The proposed system brings a fresh approach to managing temple donations by creating a secure, transparent, and decentralized platform that combines blockchain technology with a user-friendly web interface. This innovative method aims to replace outdated and unclear ways of handling funds with a digital solution that guarantees transparency, traceability, and real-time accountability for donations within religious institutions. At the heart of the system is an easy-to-navigate website that serves as the main hub for users, administrators, and temple authorities. Users can sign up, log in, and view temple-related information, including their donation history and spending records, all through an intuitive interface. After registering, users are authenticated using JSON Web Tokens (JWT), which provide secure sessions and access control across the platform.

The donation process is powered by an Ethereum-based smart contract, allowing users to donate ETH directly to a temple's designated wallet. To facilitate this, the system incorporates MetaMask as the digital wallet gateway, ensuring that transactions are secure and authenticated. When a user decides to make a donation, the MetaMask extension prompts them to confirm the transaction. Once they do, the smart contract takes care of the fund transfer securely and logs important transaction details like the amount, gas fee, sender address, and purpose on the blockchain.

Beyond the blockchain layer, the system features an off-chain backend built with Node.js and Express.js. This backend is tasked with recording transaction metadata, managing authentication, and interacting with the MongoDB database. The database holds vital information such as user profiles, temple details, transaction history, and role-based access for members, temple authorities, and admins. This off-chain data storage allows for comprehensive analytics, real-time dashboards, and receipt generation capabilities. The entire system is designed to be modular and scalable, ensuring smooth communication and functionality.

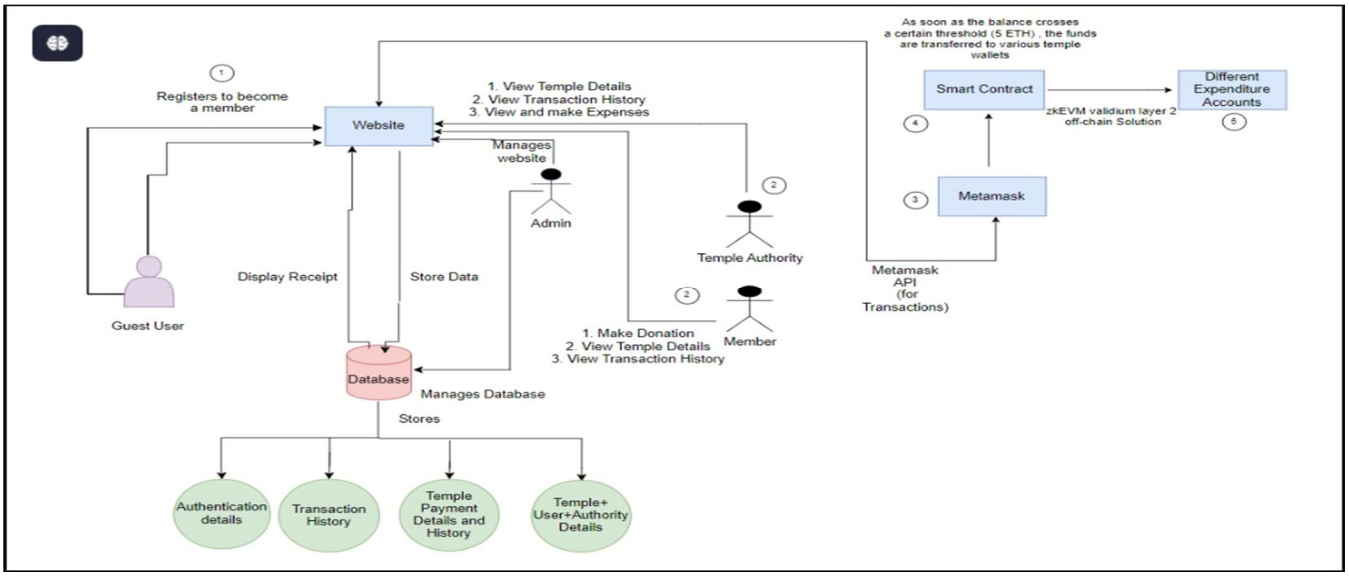


Fig: System Architecture Design

The architecture diagram you see here maps out how data and control flow through every part of the system, starting from user interactions all the way to blockchain execution and database recording. It clearly shows how each layer plays a role in ensuring that donations are handled securely, transparently, and in a decentralized manner. This approach addresses the common problems of mismanagement and trust issues that often plague temple fund systems. The methodology is crafted to boost donor confidence while giving temple authorities accurate, real-time financial insights, all thanks to the unchangeable and transparent nature of blockchain technology.

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B. Research Approach

- Decentralized Network: This leverages blockchain technology to handle temple transactions, ensuring everything is transparent and trustworthy.
- Smart Contracts: These automate the process of donations and fund distribution.
- System Integration: Combines front-end, back-end, and blockchain components for secure, efficient operations.

C. Research Validity and Consistency

- Effect due to tested variables.
- Results generalize well.
- Measures the right concept.

D. Research Integrity and Precision

- Validity: Measures the accuracy of the study's outcomes.
- Reliability: Ensures consistent results over time.
- Objectivity: Maintains neutrality, free from bias.
- Replicability: Allows the study to be repeated with similar results.

IV. PROPOSED SOLUTION

A. System Design

The proposed solution presents an innovative Temple Fund Management platform that integrates blockchain technology to ensure that religious donations are handled securely, transparently, and efficiently. This system features a multi-layered architecture with four key components: the user interface, backend server, Ethereum smart contract layer, and MongoDB database. Together, these layers create a smooth, tamper-proof, and user-friendly experience for both devotees and temple administrators.

The user interface is crafted with a web-based React.js application, providing easy-to-use modules for registration, login, viewing temple information, checking donation history, and making ETH donations through MetaMask. To keep everything secure, all interactions on the frontend are safeguarded with JWT-based authentication, meaning only verified users can engage in donation activities. When a donation occurs, the application interacts with a smart contract on the Ethereum blockchain. This smart contract ensures that ETH is securely transferred to the temple's verified wallet while also recording essential transaction details—like the sender's address, donation amount, and timestamp guaranteeing complete traceability.

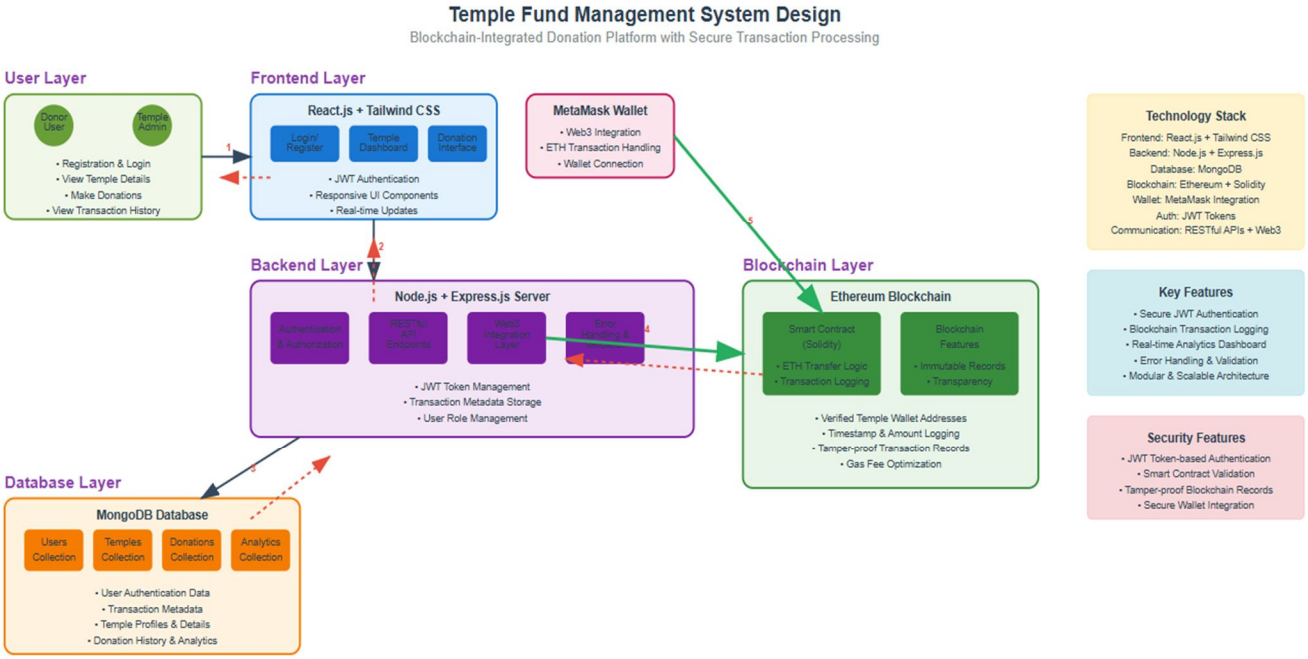


Fig : System Design

The system design diagram above visually maps out the layered interaction among all key components—namely the user interface, frontend, backend server, blockchain layer, and database. It demonstrates how each module plays a distinct yet interconnected role in ensuring secure, transparent, and accountable handling of temple donations. The diagram also showcases the real-time flow of data, from user input and transaction initiation to blockchain verification and database logging. By illustrating the sequence of communication between these layers, the architecture clearly highlights how tamper-proof transaction records, role-based access, and automated ETH transfers are implemented seamlessly. This integrated design not only enhances the system's operational efficiency but also builds trust among users, simplifies fund oversight for administrators, and ensures that every step of the donation process is traceable, verifiable, and immune to unauthorized manipulation.

B. Flowchart

The flowchart shown in the figure gives a clear visual representation of how the proposed Blockchain-Based Temple Fund Management System operates. It highlights the sequence of processes and interactions among the three main players: the Super Admin, the Temple Administrator, and the End User (Devotee). The whole process kicks off with the Super Admin, who has the power to bring new temples onto the platform. After logging in and connecting their MetaMask wallet, the Super Admin creates and sends login credentials to the Temple Administrators via email. Once the Temple Administrator receives these credentials, they log into the system, link their own MetaMask wallet, and provide the temple's registration details along with any necessary documentation.

After submission, a verification request is sent to the Super Admin. Once they review the information, the Super Admin approves the registration and uploads the temple data onto the blockchain network, officially activating it on the platform. After activation, the Temple Administrator can handle essential tasks like accepting donations from devotees, tracking temple expenses, and sharing updates and information about the temple for everyone to see. All financial transactions—both donations and expenditures—are automatically logged on the blockchain ledger, which guarantees transparency, traceability, and trust. This setup boosts overall accountability and reinforces the confidence of donors and stakeholders alike.

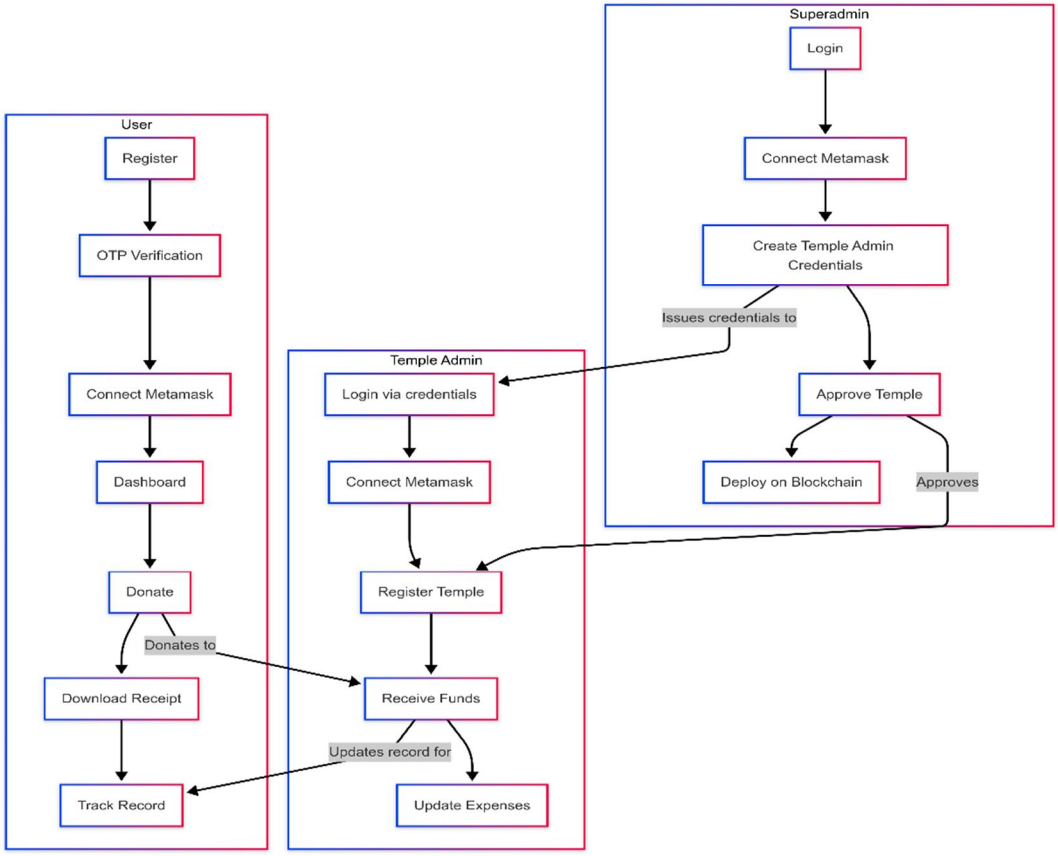


Fig: Flowchart of System

V. CHALLENGES AND FUTURE SCOPE

The proposed temple fund management system, built with web technology and integrated with blockchain, offers a promising way to tackle the challenges of managing temple donations. However, there are several key hurdles that need to be overcome for it to be widely adopted and run efficiently. One significant issue is the limited accessibility for devices, as the current setup is only available as a web application. This can be a barrier for those who prefer using mobile platforms or desktop applications for convenience. By developing dedicated mobile apps for both Android and iOS, along with desktop versions, we could greatly enhance engagement among devotees, administrators, and stakeholders across various devices.

Another challenge is the system's scalability. As the user base and transaction volume increase, it's crucial to maintain performance and reliability. Utilizing cloud services like Amazon Web Services (AWS) or Microsoft Azure can help with this, providing the necessary computational power and storage for growth. Additionally, incorporating Layer 2 blockchain solutions such as Polygon CDK, which uses rollup mechanisms, can speed up transactions and lower gas fees, making the system more efficient and cost-effective. Looking to the future, the system aims to implement AI-driven analytics for tracking donation trends and automating financial reports, creating a smarter and more transparent approach to managing temple funds

VI. CONCLUSION

The creation of a blockchain-based temple fund management system is a major leap towards modernizing how religious finances are managed. Tailored for temple administrators and their supporters, this system uses web technologies to create a secure, transparent, and efficient way to handle donations. By harnessing the power of blockchain's decentralized structure and smart contracts, it tackles common problems like manual errors, data tampering, and the need for middlemen. Donations are automatically allocated to five designated accounts through smart contracts, ensuring everything is fair, traceable, and efficient. Each transaction is recorded on an unchangeable ledger, giving everyone involved access to a clear and secure record.

One of the most impressive aspects of this system is its real-time audit trail, which boosts accountability and oversight for both users and administrators. This not only builds trust among donors but also gives temple authorities a solid way to responsibly track the flow of funds. While the backend is technically sound, there's still room to enhance the user experience. Improving the frontend to better convey needs and donation statuses could make user engagement even smoother. All in all, integrating blockchain technology brings a high level of security, integrity, and reliability, laying a strong foundation for ethical and efficient donation management in temples. This system not only enhances operational control but also strengthens trust in religious institutions through clear and transparent digital practices.

VII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors would like to express their sincere gratitude to the Department of Computer Engineering, Government College of Engineering, Yavatmal, for their continuous support and encouragement throughout this research. Special thanks are extended to Prof.C.V.Andhare for his guidance, technical expertise, and mentorship, which were instrumental in shaping the direction of this study. We also acknowledge the open-source contributors and maintainers of blockchain technologies, smart contract frameworks, and decentralized fund management tools, without which this work would not have been possible.

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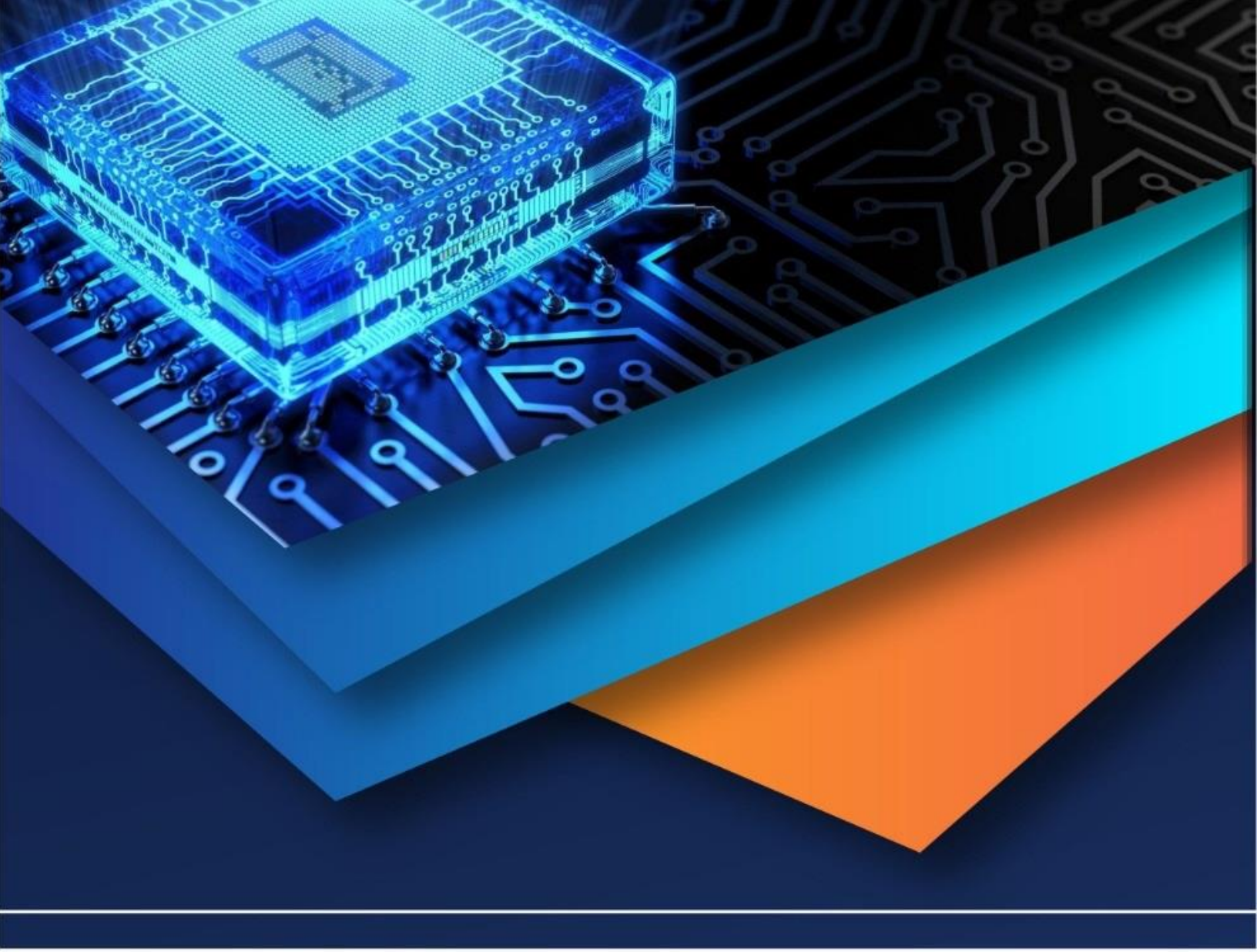
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