VRKAN VENTURES

CROSS-BORDER ADVISORY · UK–INDIA

DATASHEET · JULY 2026

India Market Entry
Routes, Timelines & Milestones

How foreign firms enter India — routes compared, indicative timelines and a setup checklist.

By the Vrkan Editorial Team

A one-page view of how foreign firms enter India — routes, indicative timelines and setup milestones.

Entry routes compared

Route	Control	Best for
Wholly-Owned Subsidiary (Pvt Ltd)	Full	A lasting operating presence
LLP	Full (partners)	Services / professional firms
Branch / Project office	Parent-controlled	Defined projects, restricted activity
Liaison office	Representative only	Market testing, no revenue
Distributor / JV	Shared / none	Fast revenue or local-partner access

Indicative setup timeline

Phase	Indicative
Name reservation & incorporation (SPICe+)	~2–4 weeks
PAN / TAN / GST & bank account	~2–4 weeks (overlapping)
FDI reporting (FC-GPR) on funding	Within the regulatory deadline after allotment
Registrations, payroll, go-live	~4–8 weeks

Milestone checklist

- Structure and FDI route confirmed (automatic vs approval).
- Entity incorporated; resident director appointed.
- Tax registrations (PAN/TAN/GST) and bank account live.
- FDI reporting filed; registered office and statutory registers set up.
- Compliance calendar and payroll running from day one.

Timelines are indicative and vary by state, sector and readiness. Regulated filings are performed by qualified professionals; Vrkan coordinates the sequence.