



# 2nd Year Comeback Blueprint

*For students who feel like they "wasted" 1st year and want to catch up fast on Dev + DSA to get their first internship*

## Your Mission

In the next 4–6 months, you can build:

- Solid Frontend skills (React as a must-have)
- DSA foundation up to Trees
- A portfolio/online presence
- Your first internship application

**Remember:** You're not starting from zero—focus on "smart catch-up," not "brute force."

## 1. Context & Mindset

You may feel regret over 1st year, but it's not irreparable. The key is strategic learning and consistent action over the next few months.

## 2. Skill Stack Breakdown

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### A. Frontend Development (React = Must)

#### Core HTML/CSS/JS Refresher

- Quickly revisit projects you built (or basics you know)
- Aim for confidence in modern CSS (Flexbox/Grid) + ES6+

#### React + Ecosystem

**Why React?** Most Indian internships + entry-level roles expect React proficiency.

#### Primary Resources:

- **Web Dev Simplified (YouTube):** Search "WebDevSimplified React Tutorial" → follow his 2024 playlist
- **Hitesh Choudhary (YouTube):** "React JS Crash Course" (2023–2024 version)
- **Chai aur Code (YouTube):** Look for "React Projects for Beginners"

#### Key Topics to Cover (1–2 weeks each):

1. Component + Props
2. State & useEffect hook
3. React Router (basic routing)
4. Fetching data: Axios/Fetch
5. Simple state management (Context API)
6. Styling libraries (Tailwind, styled-components or plain CSS modules)

#### Cherry-on-Top (if time permits):

**Backend Primer:**

- Node.js + Express fundamentals (follow Harkirat's "Advanced Systems" playlist)
- MongoDB basics (CRUD operations)

**Hosting/Deployment:**

- Vercel/Netlify for Frontend
- Heroku/Render for simple Node apps

## B. DSA Foundation (Up to Trees)

**Goal: Solve 150–200 DSA problems (Easy → Medium) focusing on everything up to Trees**

### Resource Roadmap:

**Striver's A2Z DSA Course (YouTube):** Start from Arrays → Strings → Linked Lists → Stacks/Queues → Binary Trees

Use his exact playlist order:

- Array (20 videos)
- String (15 videos)
- Linked List (10 videos)
- Stack/Queue (8 videos)
- Tree (20 videos)

**Aim:** Finish these playlists in 4–6 weeks

### Weekly Routine (12 weeks total):

**2-week sprint:** Watch Striver video + solve 10–12 related problems

### Maintaining Pace:

- **Week 1–2:** Arrays (+20 problems)
- **Week 3–4:** Strings (+20 problems)
- **Week 5–6:** Linked Lists (+15 problems)
- **Week 7–8:** Stack/Queue/Recursion (+15 problems)
- **Week 9–10:** Trees (Binary Tree + BST) (+25 problems)
- **Week 11–12:** Extra DSA problems from past topics to hit 150–200 total

Progress Tracking:

Maintain a Google Sheet or Notion table with columns:

Topic	Resource Link	Problems Attempted	Problems Solved	Difficulty
Arrays	Striver Array Playlist (YouTube)	20	18	Easy/Med
...	...	...	...	...

## C. Other Must-do Actions (2nd Year)

These build on top of Dev + DSA. By the end of 2nd year, you want a visible footprint —projects, GitHub, LinkedIn, and a (small) public "proof" of progress.

### Project Cornerstone (2–3 Projects)

#### What to Build? (React as core)

1. **"ChatGPT-style" Project:** Use a free API (e.g., OpenAI trial or any public AI demo) inside React
2. **Dashboard UI:** Pick a public API (weather, crypto prices) + display charts (Recharts or Chart.js)
3. **E-commerce Mini-Clone:** Homepage, product listing, filter/sort, cart UI (no backend needed if you use dummy JSON)

**Pro Tip:** If you're unsure what matches your comfort level, prompt ChatGPT: *"I'm a 2nd year BTech student who has learned React basics. Suggest 3 beginner-to-intermediate React projects I can finish in 2 weeks, each teaching me a new concept."*

**Hosting:** Deploy all React apps on Vercel/Netlify. Link them in your portfolio.

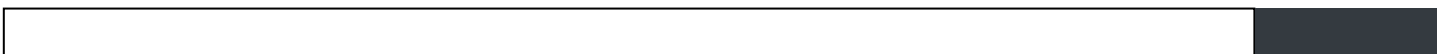
### Public Profile & Proof

#### GitHub:

- Push all projects—keep clean README.md for each (screenshots, what you learned, how to run)
- Use branches for each feature to show you understand git flow

#### LinkedIn:

- **Optimize headline:** "2nd Year BTech • React Dev • DSA Learner"
- **Weekly posting schedule:**
  - **Monday:** "This week's DSA wins" (e.g., "Solved 10 linked-list problems from Striver sheet")



- **Thursday:** "Showing my new React project: [link]" + 1 short lesson

## Internship Hunt

### Where to Look:

- Internshala (filter "Frontend Developer Intern")
- LinkedIn Easy Apply + DM hiring leads
- College placement portal (if any)

### Application Tracking:

Keep a checklist using a simple Google Sheet:

Company	Role	Applied on	Response	Next Follow-up Date
ABC Startups	Frontend Intern	10 Jul 2025	No Reply	17 Jul 2025
XYZ Technologies	React Intern	12 Jul 2025	Interview	15 Jul 2025

### Cold DM Template (LinkedIn):

*Hi [Name], I'm [Your Name], a 2nd year BTech student passionate about React JS. I've built [Project 1] and [Project 2] (GitHub: [link]). I'd love to contribute as a Frontend Intern at [Company]. Are you open to a quick chat? Thanks!*

## Hackathons (Optional but High-Leverage)

### Platforms to Watch:

- Devfolio → "Hackathon Seeker"
- Unstop (Devfolio events)
- Major college/university hackathons (IITs, NITs, VIT)

### Why Hackathons?

- Quick sprint of product-thinking + teamwork
- Win cash/prizes → proof to show on LinkedIn/GitHub

### Action Steps:

1. Sign up on Devfolio + subscribe to event newsletters
2. Team up with 2–3 friends (preferably one designer, one backend-leaning peer)
3. Pick a problem you care about (e.g., campus safety, mental health)
4. Ship an MVP in 24–48 hrs; share it on GitHub + LinkedIn

## Content Routine (Twice a Month)

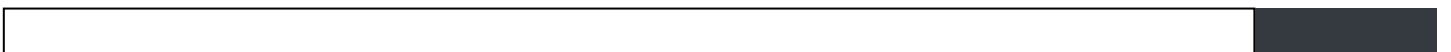
**Why?** Builds your personal brand, forces you to articulate what you learn.

### What to Post:

- "This's how I solved 10 tree-related Leetcode problems"
- "Here's what I learned building my React weather dashboard"

### Where:

- **LinkedIn:** Longer format, 200–300 words
- **Twitter:** Threads: 5–7 tweets





**Pro Tip:** Use Canva to make a simple image summarizing a key concept (e.g., "Tree traversal in 3 lines of code").

### 3. Checklist & Timeline (Next 4–6 Months)

Week	Focus	Deliverable
1–2	React Core + Small Project #1	Basic React app (e.g., Todo List) on Netlify
3–4	Striver Arrays + Striver Sheet	20 array problems solved, update DSA tracker
5–6	React Project #2 (API + State)	Weather Dashboard with API fetch, hosted on Vercel
7–8	Striver Strings + Linked Lists	20 string + 15 list problems solved
9–10	Hackathon Sign-up + Team Setup	Register for 1 hackathon, basic idea + outline ready
11–12	Trees + Project #3 (Complexity)	25 tree problems solved + React ChatGPT-style mini-app deployed
13–14	Portfolio + LinkedIn Ramp-Up	GitHub portfolio URL live; 4 LinkedIn posts about your journey
15–16	Internship Applications Begin	Apply to 10 companies; track in sheet; send 10–15 cold DMs

## 4. Resource Links

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### DSA Resources:

**Striver's A2Z DSA YouTube Playlist:**

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgUwDviBIIf0rGEWe64KWas0Nrjn7SCRWw>

**Striver's A2Z DSA Sheet:**

<https://takeuforward.org/strivers-a2z-dsa-course/strivers-a2z-dsa-course-sheet-2>

### React Development Resources:

**Web Dev Simplified (React):**

<https://www.youtube.com/@WebDevSimplified/search?query=React>

**Hitesh Choudhary (React Crash Course):**

<https://www.youtube.com/@HiteshChoudhary/search?query=React%20Crash%20Course>

**Chai aur Code (React Projects):**

<https://www.youtube.com/@ChaiAurCode/search?query=React%20Projects>

### Hackathons & Opportunities:

**Devfolio (Hackathon Signup):**

<https://devfolio.co/hackathons>

**Unstop (Competitions):**

[https://unstop.com/competitions?competition\\_type=hackathon](https://unstop.com/competitions?competition_type=hackathon)

## Internship Platforms:

**Internshala (Frontend Internships):**

<https://internshala.com/internships/frontend-developer-internships>

## Summary

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### **React Mastery**

Finish 1–2 projects, deploy them

### **DSA (Up to Trees)**

150–200 problems via Striver's sheet/videos

### **Portfolio + Proof**

GitHub, LinkedIn, small content cadence

### **Internships + Hackathons**

Apply, track, and participate

## **Final Words**

Once this roadmap is completed, you'll be ready to step into 3rd year with a strong foundation—projects to show, DSA confidence, and an internship on your resume. The key is consistency and smart execution, not perfection.

**Remember:** Progress over perfection. Start today, stay consistent, and track your journey!

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*Generated on June 3, 2025 | Your 2nd Year Comeback Starts Now! *