PATHAHEAD · FREE ROADMAP

Become a Full-Stack Web Developer from Scratch

No degree needed to start. Go from a blank page to shipping full-stack apps in about five months — built around real projects you can show employers.

22	5	4	₹0
weeks · ~10–12 hrs/wk	portfolio projects	phases · zero to deploy	free resources only

A free PathAhead learning resource · adjust the pace to your life — the order matters more than the dates.

THE ONE RULE

Learn → build it → deploy it

Reading docs without building is wasted time. Every concept below ships as something live on the internet. Put every project on GitHub and deploy it free.

THE ROADMAP

Four phases, step by step

0 Foundations

Weeks 1–4

Structure and style the web — HTML, CSS, and Git.

WEEK 1
HTML fundamentals
Semantic tags, forms, links, images, accessibility.

WEEK 2
CSS & layout
The box model, Flexbox, and CSS Grid.

WEEK 3
Responsive design
Media queries, variables, transitions, mobile-first.

WEEK 4
Git & tooling
Git, GitHub, VS Code; deploy a static site free.

1 JavaScript

Weeks 5–9

Make pages interactive with real JavaScript.

WEEK 5
JS basics
Variables, functions, arrays, objects, loops.

WEEK 6
DOM & events
Manipulate the page, handle clicks and input.

WEEK 7
Async & APIs
Promises, fetch, JSON, calling real APIs.

WEEK 8
Modern JS
ES6+, modules, npm, array methods.

WEEK 9 · PROJECT ▶
Interactive app
Build a weather or to-do app using an API.

2 Frontend with React

Weeks 10–15

Build modern single-page apps with React.

WEEK 10
React basics
Components, JSX, props, rendering.

WEEK 11
State & hooks
useState, useEffect, lifting state.

WEEK 12
Routing & forms
React Router, controlled inputs, validation.

WEEK 13
Data fetching
Call APIs, handle loading and error states.

WEEK 14
Styling & UI
Tailwind or a component library.

WEEK 15 · PROJECT ▶
React SPA
Ship a movie or product browser app.

3 Backend & Full-Stack

Weeks 16–22

Add a server, a database, and deploy the whole thing.

WEEK 16
Node & Express
Servers, routes, building REST APIs.

WEEK 17
Databases
SQL vs NoSQL; MongoDB or PostgreSQL.

WEEK 18
CRUD & auth
JWT, sessions, password hashing.

WEEK 19
Full-stack wiring
Connect the React front end to your API.

WEEK 20
Deployment
Vercel/Render, env vars, basic CI.

WEEK 21
Testing & polish
Error handling, validation, cleanup.

WEEK 22 · CAPSTONE ▶
Full-stack app
Ship a complete deployed MERN/PERN app.

BUILD A PORTFOLIO

Five projects that get you hired

Projects beat certificates. Do them in order — each builds on the last. Put every one on GitHub with a clear README: problem → approach → result.

Start here

1 · Personal Portfolio Site

Pure HTML/CSS/JS. Your first live site — deploy it on GitHub Pages.

JavaScript

2 · Interactive App

A weather or to-do app that fetches live data from a public API.

React

3 · React Single-Page App

A movie or product browser with routing, search, and API data.

In demand

4 · Full-Stack CRUD App

A notes or blog app with login, a database, and REST API.

Capstone

5 · Deployed Full-Stack App

A complete MERN/PERN app, live on the internet with auth.

ROLES YOU CAN APPLY FOR

Frontend Developer · Full-Stack Developer · Backend Developer · Web Developer

TYPICAL STARTING SALARY · INDIA

₹4–10 LPA

LEARN IT

Learning resources

Every item links to the real source (clickable in this PDF).

BOOKS

- Eloquent JavaScript by Marijn Haverbeke
- HTML and CSS by Jon Duckett
- You Do Not Know JS Yet by Kyle Simpson

COURSES

- Responsive Web Design by freeCodeCamp (free)
- The Odin Project (free)
- Full Stack Open by University of Helsinki (free)
- Meta Front-End Developer by Coursera

YOUTUBE

- Traversy Media
- The Net Ninja
- Web Dev Simplified

PRACTICE

- Frontend Mentor
- CodePen
- GitHub

DO THIS TODAY

Your first step (takes 30 minutes)

1

Install VS Code

Download the free editor and the Live Server extension. That's your whole setup.

2

Get a GitHub account

github.com — host your code and deploy sites free with GitHub Pages.

3

Build one HTML page

Make a simple 'About Me' page today. That's step one — you've started.

Job-ready checklist: 3–5 solid projects on GitHub (≥1 deployed or documented) · can explain your work in an interview · comfortable with the core tools of the field · a portfolio or profile recruiters can find.

PathAhead — India's premium career guidance platform. This roadmap is a free educational resource; timelines are a guide and everyone learns at a different pace. Referenced third-party resources (freeCodeCamp, The Odin Project, MDN Web Docs, JavaScript.info, Full Stack Open) are for learning only and are not affiliated with PathAhead.