



MODULE 1: FOUNDATIONS (GETTING STARTED)

LESSON 1: Why React and Next.js for Sri Lankan Businesses?

Learning Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will understand why React and Next.js are valuable skills for your web development career in Sri Lanka and what types of projects you can build with them.

1.1 The Current State of Web Development in Sri Lanka

Before we dive into code, let's look at the market you're entering. Understanding the demand helps you focus your learning on what actually pays.

Market Statistics (2025-2026):

- React holds 13% market share among Sri Lankan websites using JavaScript frameworks

- Next.js (built on React) holds 8% and is growing rapidly
- Traditional PHP still dominates at 95%, but modern businesses are shifting to React/Next.js for better user experience

What This Means For You:

Companies with existing PHP sites are now looking to rebuild or add modern features using React. This creates huge demand for developers who can bridge the old and new.

1.2 Why Businesses Are Switching to React/Next.js

Let me explain this simply, as if you're talking to a Sri Lankan business owner:

Problem with Old Sites	How React/Next.js Solves It
Slow loading on mobile data	Next.js optimizes images and loads only what's needed
Pages reload fully when clicking links	React updates only the part that changed (feels like a mobile app)
Hard to rank on Google	Next.js improves SEO with server-side rendering
Difficult to add new features	React's component system makes code reusable and maintainable

Real-World Example:

Imagine a Sri Lankan clothing store with a PHP site. When a customer clicks "Add to Cart," the whole page refreshes. With React, the cart updates instantly without refresh. This better experience means more sales.

1.3 Job Opportunities in Sri Lanka

Based on current job postings, here's what companies are looking for:

Freelance Projects:

- Building e-commerce sites for local businesses (Rs. 50,000 - 200,000 per project)
- Adding shopping carts to existing sites
- Creating admin dashboards for business owners

Full-Time Jobs:

- Junior React Developer: Rs. 60,000 - 100,000/month
- Mid-Level React Developer: Rs. 120,000 - 180,000/month
- Senior React/Next.js Developer: Rs. 200,000 - 300,000/month

Remote Work:

International companies hire Sri Lankan React developers for \$15-30/hour

1.4 Types of Projects You Can Build After This Course

By the end of this course, you'll be able to build:

1. E-commerce Sites - Online stores with product catalogs and payments

2. Business Websites - Modern company profiles that load fast
 3. Restaurant Ordering Systems - Online menus with delivery integration
 4. Real Estate Listings - Property sites with search and filters
 5. Educational Platforms - Course listing and enrollment systems
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1.5 What You'll Build in This Course

Throughout this course, we'll build a complete e-commerce site called "CeylonMart" - a modern online store selling Sri Lankan products.

Features You'll Implement:

- Product listing page with categories
 - Individual product pages
 - Shopping cart
 - PayHere payment integration
 - Order confirmation
 - Mobile-responsive design
 - Fast loading for Sri Lankan users
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Lesson 1 Summary

- React and Next.js are in high demand in Sri Lanka's job market
 - Businesses are switching for better speed, SEO, and user experience
 - You can earn Rs. 60,000 - 300,000/month with these skills
 - By course end, you'll build a complete e-commerce site
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Quick Quiz

1. What percentage market share does React hold in Sri Lanka?
 - a) 5%
 - b) 13%
 - c) 25%
 - d) 50%
2. Name two problems with old PHP sites that React solves.
3. What is the name of the project we'll build in this course?

(Answers: 1-b, 2-Slow loading and full page refreshes, 3-CeylonMart)