>> - Which CDCs to focus on

It is very difficult to single out the significance of one CDC over the other. Hence, any answer in this regard might be inadequate, and even inaccurate on a case-by-case basis.

Companies usually go for VLSI knowledge. Hence, if you really want to make a career after bachelor's in core electronics, you should get your **ES-1, DECO, Microelectronics and ADVD** right. Analog electronics, is an equally important course. These are the most important courses, and by that I mean the content of the course over and above everything the faculty tries to cover in a single course. Try not to leave any topic of the text book of these subjects uncovered. The course on **computer architecture** is a must. It is not offered to electronics students, but try to either audit that course (it is taken for IS in first sem, and CS in the other, so lots of opportunity there), or read it up on your own.

Again, if you have even the slightest of the interests in coding, and don't mind an IT job, you should do your **CP-1 and CP-2** well. The knowledge of basic data structures taught in these courses along with a few basic algorithms from Dromey should be good enough to get you a decent placement.

>> - Were projects(COP/SOP/Internships) an important criterion for your selection

Yes. It's always good to be able to show work done in their field of interest. It helps you provide the interviewer with questions to ask which you would be knowing. It would definitely help you guide the interview in your area of strength, if you have done projects in the area they are looking for.

>> - What languages should be focused on

Getting a basic knowledge of C is a must. There is far than meets the eye in C. Try solving C puzzles. Books like 1.) The C Puzzle Book by Alan R. Feuer and 2.) Test your C skills by Yashwant Kanetkar should get you in the right direction. So try and get your concepts absolutely clear. I know many electronics students in their PS2 working on device drivers, and hence 90% of their work is coding. Ultimately, even if you will be interfacing the hardware as an electronics student, you are expected to write the high language code for your modules. So C is a must.

Over and above this, it is always advantageous to learn an object-oriented programming language like C++ or Java. It's okay not to go beyond these, at this stage. However, the more the merrier.

>> - How important was the role of aptitude and where did you prepare it from

Aptitude questions constitute almost 50% of the questions that the companies end up asking, either in the written tests, or during interviews as well. Try solving puzzles on freepuzzles.com. It has got real brainteasers. You would get a mountain of aptitude material on DC, in terms of CAT aptitude, placement aptitude questions, and what not. As a last resort, you can always google it. So, finding the material for aptitude should be easy. However, aptitude is something that will matter on that particular day. If it doesn't have to strike, it won't. So a bit of luck factor is involved there.

>> - What was stressed on, in the HR interviews

In the HR interviews, you should be prepared completely with most common questions like, why this company, why are your strengths and weaknesses, why were you rejected by the former companies, and so on. Please leave the mantra of radical honesty aside, and be as diplomatic as possible. They want to test those skills of yours too.

>> - What is the ideal time-frame for preparation (as in... what would be the right time to start)

Preparing answers to HR questions takes around a day at max. You need basic C aptitude. Ideal time to devote for that should be around two months, an hour a day. Data structures should be revised well in advance, so as to be comfortable with their properties.
It would be a good idea to revise the aforementioned subjects after your CDC's are over, in your 3-2 vacation. Not that you shouldn't enjoy the free time, just be regular as **revising** five subjects over two months won't take you more than an hour or two a day. This is a really fair deal, as it shall provide you with a significant edge over others. Most people start preparing for placements, after the arrival of the first company, and end up realizing it is too late.

>> - What is the material that you used for preparation (you can give your email ID and ask them to mail it to you)

>> - Some difficult questions that were asked in technical tests/interviews

Questions can't be categorized difficult or easy, Almost all apti questions would be a matter of whether they strike you or not. Technical questions usually end up being easy, as they are theoretical. Some of the typical questions were :

- The 12 coin question. One of them Is heavier or lighter than the others. You have to single the odd coin out, using the scale thrice or lesser. Wiki this question.
- Find the endianness of the machine. This was tricky. The idea is to define an integer, give it some value, and traverse its individual bytes using a character pointer. This will help you decide, if the higher bytes end up storing leading zeroes/ones or the lower bytes.
- Given two jars, of capacity 5L and 3L , try getting an exact quantity of 4L. Assume infinite supply of water.
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>> - Any other points for the different rounds of the placement procedure

You can try and view the placement procedure of any company as three different sections : written Test (technical, or apti or both), one or more personal interviews (apti , technical or both) and one or more HR interviews. Keeping this picture of placements in mind, shall help you prepare well, and identify your weak areas.