NEWS WEBSITE (CLONE) USING NEXT.JS — PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

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Documentation and Explanation

Wireframe / Website Layout Plan

HeroArticle
Latest news
Top news
Trending news

Layout Decisions

- Used a **Four-column** newspaper-style layout for clear visual hierarchy
- **Hero Article** placed on left at top for maximum attention
- **Latest News** shown below Hero for fast scrolling
- Top Stories + Trending for quick content access
- Clean and visually balanced UI using Tailwind CSS

Data Fetching Strategy

- Used **mock JSON data** stored locally in /data/articles.js
- Reasoning:
  - No API key required
  - Works offline without dependency on network
  - Prevents live API failure during evaluation
- Makes testing and development faster and more reliable

Components Created

Component	Purpose
Navbar	Website header + Navigation Links
HeroArticle	Featured headline news shown prominently
ArticleCard	Reusable card for Latest & Sidebar articles
Sidebar Sections	Includes Top Stories and Trending lists
Footer	Simple page footer

Data Model Used (Structure)

Each news article object contains:

- id — unique identifier

- title — headline

- slug — dynamic routing URL

- summary — short preview text

- imageUrl — thumbnail image

- date — publish date

- category — news category label

- isTopStory — boolean to highlight special news

AI Use + Reflection

Work Done Using AI

AI helped in:

- Generating initial Next.js component structure

- Suggesting Tailwind CSS styling and grid layouts

- Debugging errors in dynamic routing + image configuration

- Improving UI responsiveness and design decisions

Where AI Suggestions Needed Corrections

- A few layout solutions stretched design incorrectly

- Next.js image settings needed manual configuration

How AI's Output Was Verified

✓ Code tested in development server

✓ Layout tested on desktop/mobile

✓ Adjusted for visual balance

✓ Removed unnecessary styling & optimized components

Reflection on AI Usage

AI made the development faster and improved my understanding of Next.js + Tailwind CSS. However, writing and fixing code myself was necessary to achieve the final working result.

This experience improved my debugging skills and confidence in working with full-stack UI tools.