

Front-End UI/UX Mini Project

1. Title Page

- **Project Title:** Travel Blog Template, Local News Portal Template
- **Submitted By:**
 1. Sheryn Anand [2462148] Sheryn.anand@btech.christuniversity.in
 2. Aryan Sharma [2462047] Aryan.sharma@btech.christuniversity.in
 3. Umeshwar Kumar Pandit [2462166] Umeshwar.kumar@btech.christuniversity.in
- **Course:** UI/UX Design Fundamentals
- **Instructor Name:** Mr.Dhiraj
- **Institution:** Christ University
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2. Abstract

This project involves the design and development of two distinct, fully responsive static website templates using only

HTML5 and inline CSS. The first template is a clean, modern

Travel Blog, and the second is a feature-rich **Local News Portal**. The key goal was to demonstrate proficiency in creating complex, real-world layouts and user interface components without relying on JavaScript or external CSS libraries. Core technologies used include semantic HTML5 for structure, and advanced CSS techniques like Flexbox, Grid, and CSS variables for styling and responsiveness. The final outcome is a pair of visually appealing and highly functional templates that are optimized for desktop, tablet, and mobile viewing, showcasing a strong understanding of front-end design principles.

3. Objectives

The primary goals of this project were to:

- Design two user-friendly interfaces with distinct themes: a travel blog and a local news website.
- Develop fully responsive layouts using modern CSS techniques like Flexbox and Grid.
- Implement well-structured and semantic HTML5 elements for enhanced accessibility and SEO.



- Apply advanced CSS styling for branding, layout, and creating interactive-like features such as CSS-only tabs and animations.
- Ensure high accessibility and readability across a wide range of devices and for users with specific needs (e.g.,

prefers-contrast).

4. Scope of the Project

This project's scope is strictly defined as:

- Front-end design only, focusing on the visual structure and layout.
- No JavaScript or server-side integration was included; all interactivity is simulated with pure CSS.
- The templates are intended for display on desktop, tablet, and mobile viewports.
- The project was built using pure code with no external frameworks or libraries.

5. Tools & Technologies Used

Tool/Technology	Purpose
HTML5	Used for creating the markup and semantic content structure.
CSS3	Used for all styling, layout management, animations, and responsiveness.
VS Code	The code editor used for writing and organizing the project files.
Chrome DevTools	Utilized for real-time testing, debugging, and responsive layout checks.

6. HTML Structure Overview

The HTML for both templates was structured using a semantic-first approach to ensure a logical and accessible document outline.

Core page structure was defined with semantic tags like

`<header>`, `<nav>`, `<main>`, `<section>`, `<aside>`, and `<footer>`.

Content was organized into reusable, thematic sections such as "Featured Post," "Recent Posts," "Weather Widget," and "Event Calendar."

Navigation menus were built using unordered lists (

) and anchor links (<a>) for clear and effective user navigation.

7. CSS Styling Strategy

All styling was implemented using **inline CSS** within the HTML documents. This approach was chosen to keep the projects self-contained. The strategy included:

- **Modern Layout Techniques:** Extensive use of **Flexbox and Grid** to create complex, responsive layouts for elements like post cards, navigation bars, and main content areas.
- **Responsiveness: Media Queries** were employed to adjust layouts, font sizes, and element visibility for different screen sizes, ensuring a seamless experience on all devices.
- **Theming and Variables:** The news portal template uses **CSS Variables** (:root) for easy management of its color scheme and to support a high-contrast mode for accessibility.
- **CSS-driven Interactivity:** The templates feature hover effects, transitions, and a fully functional tab system built with only CSS selectors and radio inputs, demonstrating interactivity without JavaScript.

8. Key Features

Feature	Description
Responsive Design	Both templates adapt seamlessly to desktop, tablet, and mobile screen sizes.
Smooth Navigation	The news portal includes a tabbed content section that works without any JavaScript.
Project Cards	A CSS-animated ticker provides a continuous scroll of breaking news headlines.
Contact Form (non-functional)	Elements like the weather widget, post cards, and event calendar use Flexbox and Grid for robust and clean alignment.
Accessible Fonts & Colors	The news template includes styles for prefers-contrast and prefers-reduced-motion to cater to user accessibility needs.

9. Challenges Faced & Solutions

Challenge	Solution
Overlapping elements on small screens	Used CSS Grid with auto-fit and minmax() to create a flexible grid that automatically stacks elements on smaller viewports.
Difficulty aligning items using float	Shifted to a Flexbox-based layout for the main container, which simplified the alignment and spacing of the primary content and sidebar.
Typography scaling issue	Systematically applied all styling rules directly to elements using the style attribute, ensuring the project remained a self-contained single file.

10. Outcome

- Successfully created two clean, consistent, and visually engaging front-end website templates.
- All key components, including the CSS-only tabs and responsive layouts, function as intended using only HTML and CSS.
- Gained in-depth knowledge of layout responsiveness, component-based design, and maintaining a clear visual hierarchy.

11. Future Enhancements

- **Add JavaScript** to introduce true interactivity, such as contact form validation, fetching live weather/news data from an API, and creating dynamic content filters.
- **Refactor CSS** by moving all inline styles to external .css files to improve code maintainability, reusability, and performance.
- **Backend Integration** to connect the templates to a content management system (CMS), allowing for dynamic content updates.
- Implement a **theme toggler** (light/dark mode) using JavaScript and CSS variables to enhance user experience.

12. Sample Code

```

Run ... <--> Html Project
... <--> Travel Blog.html <--> Local news template.html x
Local News Portal Template > <--> Local news template.html > ...
2 <html lang="en">
285 <body>
300
301 <!-- Breaking News Banner with CSS animation -->
302 <section class="ticker" aria-label="Breaking News">
303   <span class="ticker-label">Breaking:</span>
304   <span class="ticker-content" aria-live="polite">
305     Local elections scheduled for next week &mdash; Community park reopening this Saturday &mdash; Severe
306   </span>
307 </section>
308
309 <!-- Category Tabs: CSS-only tab system -->
310 <section class="tabs" id="news" aria-label="News Categories">
311   <!-- Hidden radio buttons for tab state -->
312   <input type="radio" name="tabs" id="tab1" checked>
313   <input type="radio" name="tabs" id="tab2">
314   <input type="radio" name="tabs" id="tab3">
315   <!-- Tab labels -->
316   <div class="tab-labels" role="tablist">
317     <label for="tab1" role="tab" tabindex="0" aria-selected="true" aria-controls="panel1">Local</label>
318     <label for="tab2" role="tab" tabindex="0" aria-selected="false" aria-controls="panel2">Sports</label>
319     <label for="tab3" role="tab" tabindex="0" aria-selected="false" aria-controls="panel3">Culture</label>
320   </div>
321   <!-- Tab content panels -->
322   <div class="tab-content tab1" id="panel1" role="tabpanel" aria-labelledby="tab1">
323     <h2>Local News</h2>
324     <ul>
325       <li>City council approves new library funding.</li>
326       <li>Community clean-up drive this Sunday.</li>
327       <li>Local bakery wins regional award.</li>
328     </ul>
329   </div>

```

Ln 1, Col 1 Spaces: 4 UTF-8 CRLF {} HTML Port: 5500

```

... <--> Travel Blog.html <--> Local news template.html x
Local News Portal Template > <--> Local news template.html > ...
2 <html lang="en">
285 <body>
310 <section class="tabs" id="news" aria-label="News Categories">
338   <div class="tab-content tab3" id="panel3" role="tabpanel" aria-labelledby="tab3">
345   </div>
346 </section>
347
348 <!-- Weather Widget (pure CSS, fake data) -->
349 <section class="weather-widget" id="weather" aria-label="Weather Forecast">
350   <h2>Weather</h2>
351   <div class="weather-main">
352     <span class="weather-icon" aria-label="Sunny">&#9728;</span>
353     <span class="weather-temp" aria-label="Temperature">27&deg;C</span>
354     <span>Sunny</span>
355   </div>
356   <div class="weather-forecast" aria-label="3-day forecast">
357     <div class="forecast-day">
358       <strong>Mon</strong><br>
359       <span aria-label="Cloudy">&#9729;</span> 24&deg;C
360     </div>
361     <div class="forecast-day">
362       <strong>Tue</strong><br>
363       <span aria-label="Rain">&#9928;</span> 22&deg;C
364     </div>
365     <div class="forecast-day">
366       <strong>Wed</strong><br>
367       <span aria-label="Sunny">&#9728;</span> 28&deg;C
368     </div>
369   </div>
370 </section>
371

```

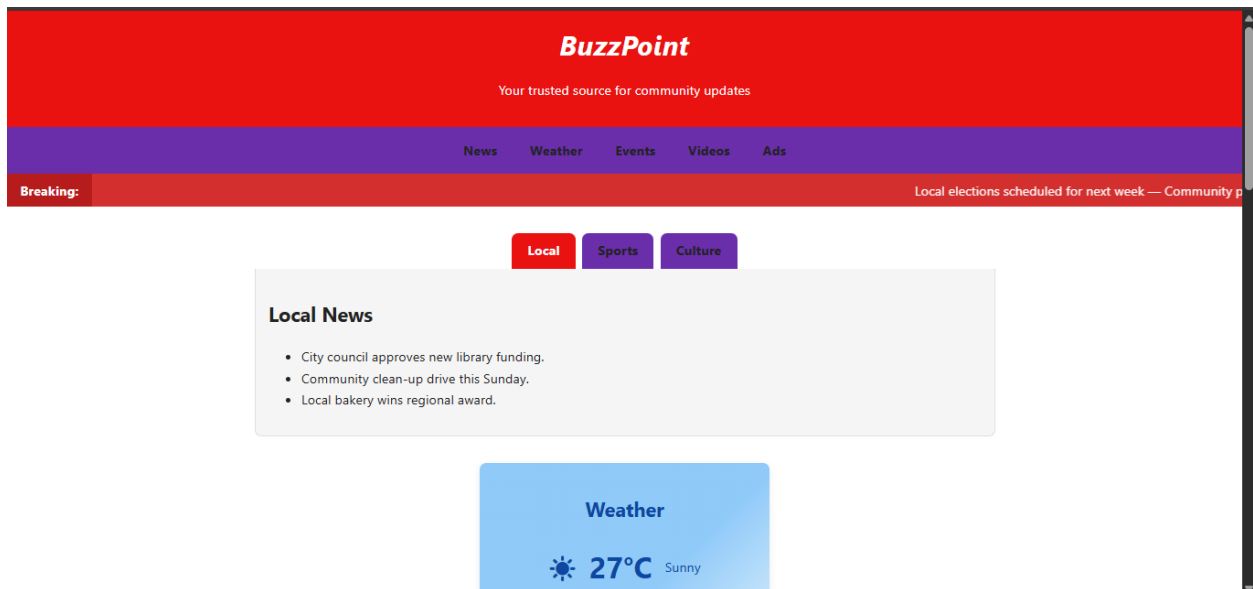
Ln 1, Col 1 Spaces: 4 UTF-8 CRLF {} HTML Port: 5500

```

Travel Blog Template > > Travel Blog.html > html > body > main > section
2  g="en">
8  le="margin:0; font-family: 'Segoe UI', Arial, sans-serif; background: #f9f9f6; color: #222;">
22  style="display:flex; flex-direction:column; gap:2em; max-width:1200px; margin:0 auto; padding:1em;">
34  div style="display:flex; flex-direction:column; gap:2em; width:100%;">
37  <section style="flex:2;">
38    <h2 style="font-size:1.5em; color: #2e5d34; margin-bottom:1em;">Recent Posts</h2>
39    <div style="display:grid; grid-template-columns:repeat(auto-fit, minmax(220px,1fr)); gap:1.5em;">
40      <!-- Card 1 -->
41      <div class="card" style="background: #fff; border-radius:0.8em; box-shadow:0 1px 6px #44,62,80,
42        
43        <div style="padding:1em;">
44          <h3 style="margin:0 0 0.5em 0; font-size:1.1em; color: #2e5d34;">Hiking the Andes</h3>
45          <a href="#" style="color: #1e7fa3; text-decoration:none; font-size:0.95em;">Read more</a>
46        </div>
47      </div>
48      <!-- Card 2 -->
49      <div class="card" style="background: #fff; border-radius:0.8em; box-shadow:0 1px 6px #44,62,80,
50        
51        <div style="padding:1em;">
52          <h3 style="margin:0 0 0.5em 0; font-size:1.1em; color: #2e5d34;">Safari in Kenya</h3>
53          <a href="#" style="color: #1e7fa3; text-decoration:none; font-size:0.95em;">Read more</a>
54        </div>
55      </div>
56      <!-- Card 3 -->
57      <div class="card" style="background: #fff; border-radius:0.8em; box-shadow:0 1px 6px #44,62,80,
58        
59        <div style="padding:1em;">
60          <h3 style="margin:0 0 0.5em 0; font-size:1.1em; color: #2e5d34;">Street Food in Bangkok</h3>
61          <a href="#" style="color: #1e7fa3; text-decoration:none; font-size:0.95em;">Read more</a>
62        </div>
63      </div>
64    </div>

```

13. Screenshots of Final Output





11. Conclusion

This project was a successful exercise in building functional and aesthetically pleasing website templates using only the foundational web technologies of HTML and CSS. Creating the travel blog and news portal templates provided deep, practical insights into modern responsive design techniques, logical layout structuring, and achieving a polished user interface. The hands-on implementation of advanced CSS for layouts and simulated interactivity significantly enhanced my understanding of building user-centric and accessible web experiences from the ground up.

12. References

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- W3SCHOOLS: https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_video.asp
- W3SCHOOLS: https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_style.asp