Writing a docker file

First we have to know about what are arguments or the instructions used in a docker file.

The Dockerfile supports the following instructions : -

Instruction	Description
ADD	Add local or remote files and directories.
ARG	Use build-time variables.
CMD	Specify default commands.
COPY	Copy files and directories.
ENTRYPOINT	Specify default executable.
ENV	Set environment variables.
EXPOSE	Describe which ports your application is listening on.
FROM	Create a new build stage from a base image.
HEALTHCHECK	Check a container's health on startup.
LABEL	Add metadata to an image.
MAINTAINER	Specify the author of an image.
ONBUILD	Specify instructions for when the image is used in a build.
RUN	Execute build commands.
SHELL	Set the default shell of an image.
STOPSIGNAL	Specify the system call signal for exiting a container.
USER	Set user and group ID.
VOLUME	Create volume mounts.
WORKDIR	Change working directory.

Example :- 1)Nginx , 2)Tomcat, 3)Apache(httpd)

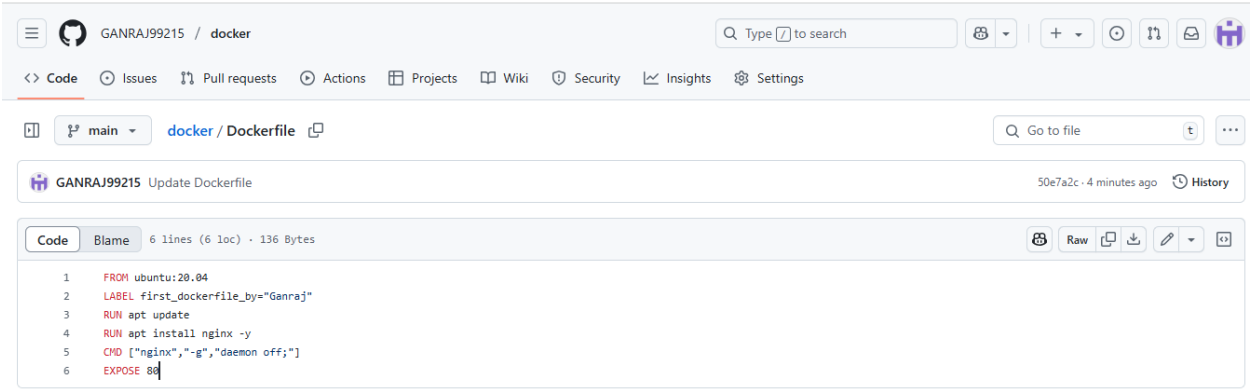
1)Nginx : -

First we will write docker file using arguments and instruction

---

```
FROM ubuntu:20.04

LABEL first_dockerfile_by="Ganraj"

RUN apt update

RUN apt install nginx -y

CMD ["nginx","-g","daemon off;"]

EXPOSE 80
```

Will save as a Dockerfile in a repo it is extension of a docker file



Explanation:-

`FROM ubuntu:20.04`

- This sets the base image for the container.
- You're starting from a clean Ubuntu 20.04 operating system (no packages, no services).

Think of it as:
"Give me a blank Ubuntu machine to build on."

```
LABEL first_dockerfile_by="Ganraj"
```

- Adds metadata to the image.
- Helps identify who created the Dockerfile.

Not required, but useful for documentation.

```
RUN apt update
```

- Updates the list of available packages from Ubuntu's servers.
- It's like running this on a real Linux machine:

```
bash

sudo apt update
```

```
RUN apt install nginx -y
```

- Installs the NGINX web server in the container.
- `-y` auto-confirms the installation.

Adds the program that will serve your web content.

```
CMD ["nginx","-g","daemon off;"]
```

- CMD tells Docker what command to run when the container starts.
- This runs NGINX in the foreground (so the container stays alive).

```
 nginx -g 'daemon off;' =
```

"Start nginx and don't run it in background mode."

If you don’t use `daemon off`, the container exits after starting nginx because there's no foreground process.

```
EXPOSE 80
```

- Tells Docker that your app **listens on port 80** (default HTTP port).
- It's a **documentation hint**, not an actual port mapping.

To make it accessible, you still need to run:

```
bash

docker run -p 8080:80 <image-name>
```

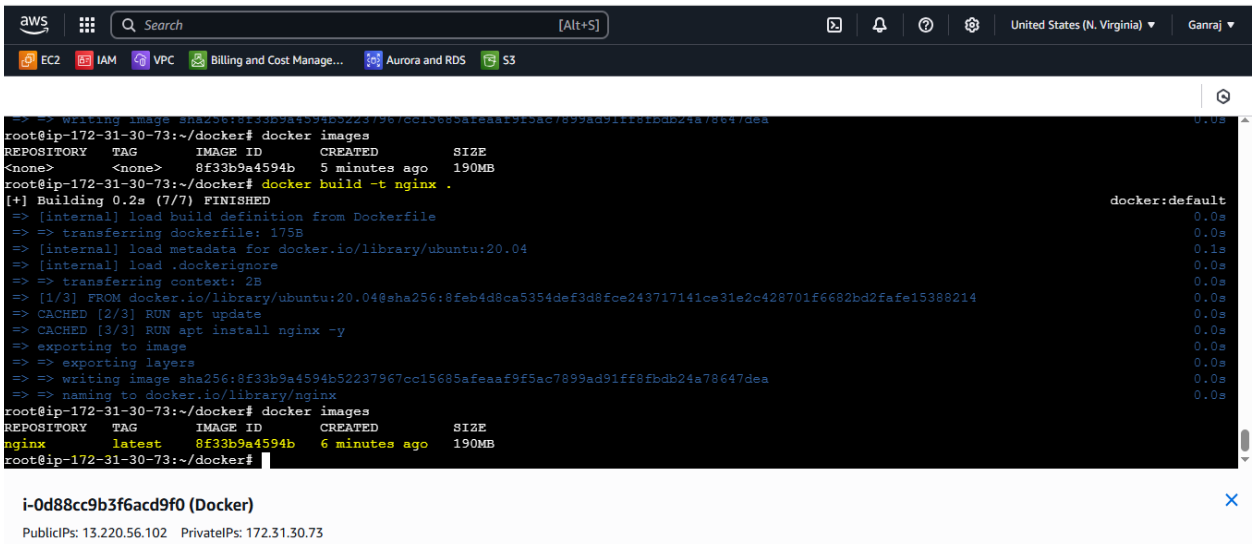
Instruction	Meaning
`FROM`	Start from Ubuntu OS
`LABEL`	Add creator info
`RUN apt update`	Get latest package list
`RUN apt install nginx -y`	Install nginx web server
`CMD`	Start nginx and keep it running
`EXPOSE`	Let Docker know we'll use port 80

How to Use This Dockerfile

```
bash

docker build -t ganraj-nginx .
docker run -p 8080:80 ganraj-nginx
```

Then visit:
http://localhost:8080

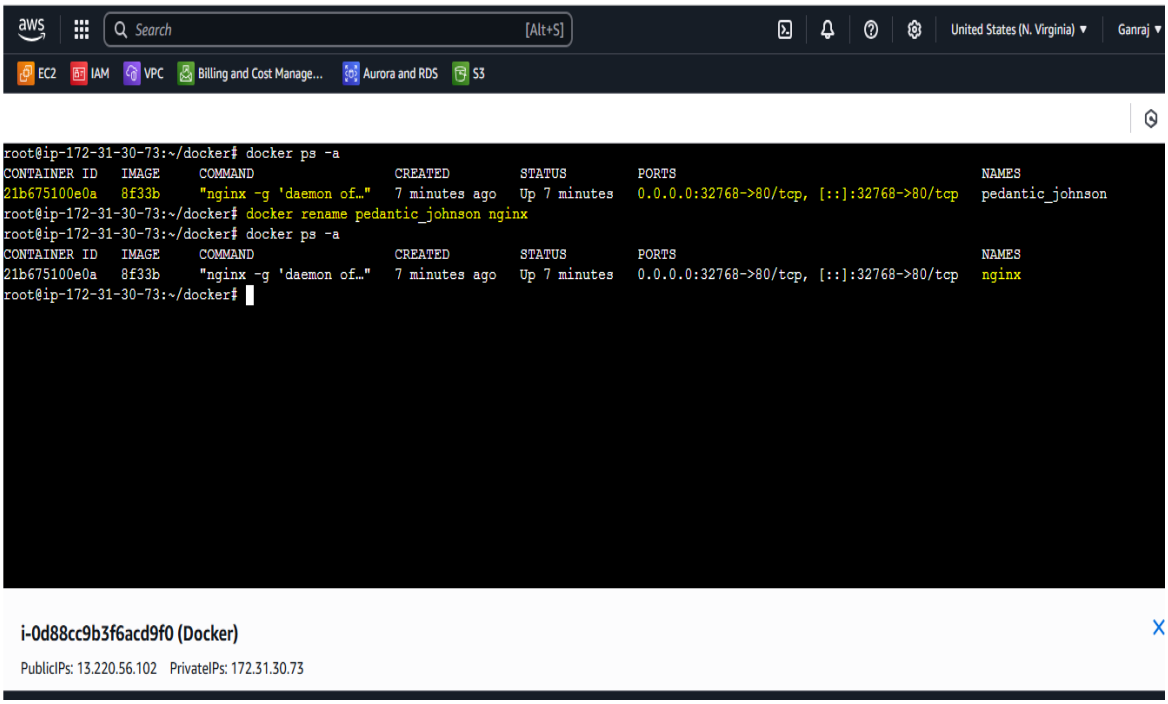
Using `docker build -t nginx .` we are creating image from a dockerfile and `-t` mentions image name



Now we will create a docker container using our image file

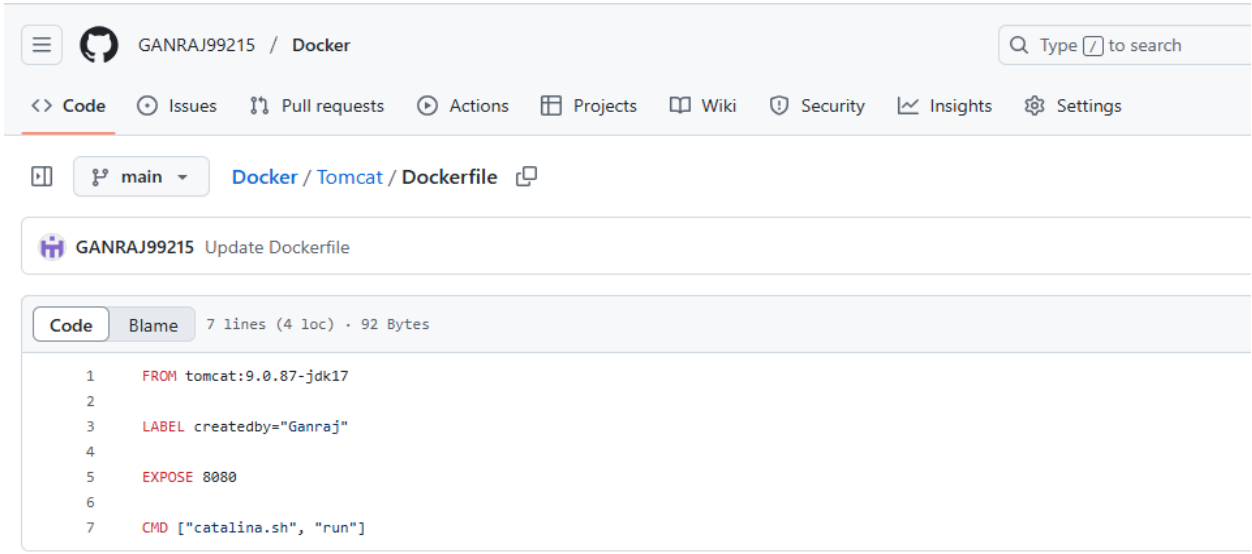
docker run –d –P 8f33b

using docker rename oldname newname **u can change container name also**



2)Tomcat:-

Now we will create same for tomcat

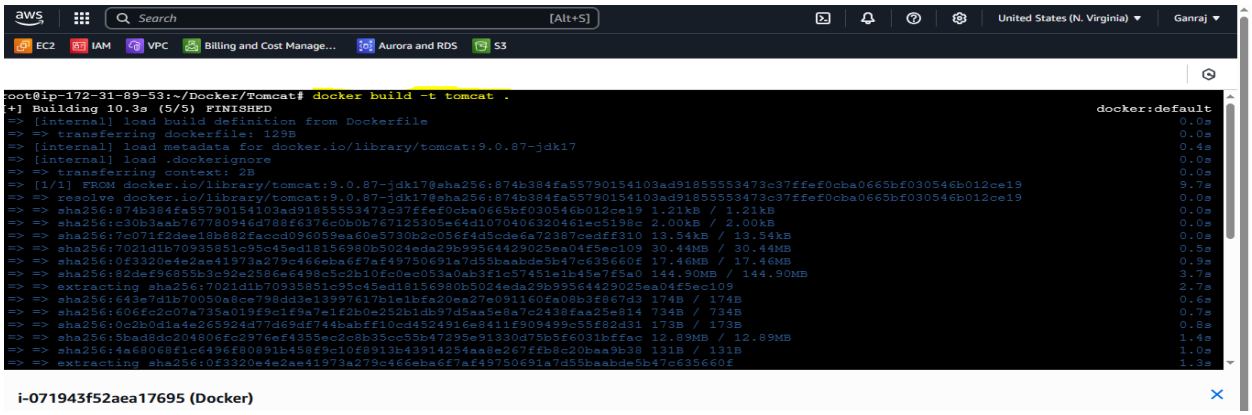


Line	What it Does
`FROM tomcat:9.0.87-jdk17`	Uses the official Tomcat image with Java 17 pre-installed. No need to install Java, Tomcat manually.
`LABEL createdby="Ganraj"`	Adds author metadata (optional, good practice).
`COPY myapp.war ...`	*(Optional)* If you have a WAR file, copy it into the Tomcat `webapps/` folder.
`EXPOSE 8080`	Exposes the Tomcat port so it can be accessed from outside the container.
`CMD ["catalina.sh", "run"]`	Starts the Tomcat server in foreground mode (default behavior).

---

docker build –t tomcat .

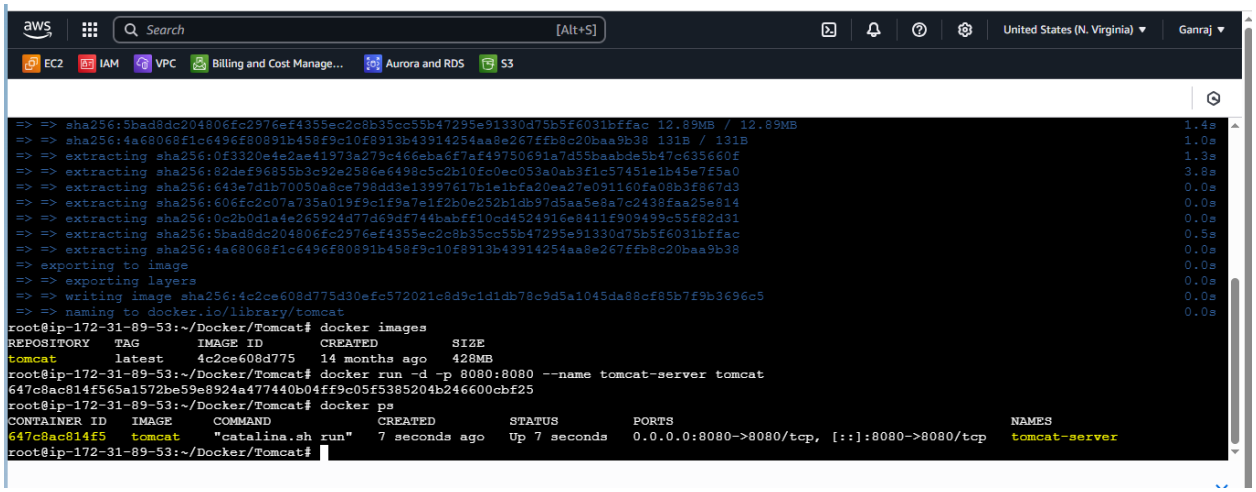
Using this command we have created one image of tomcat.



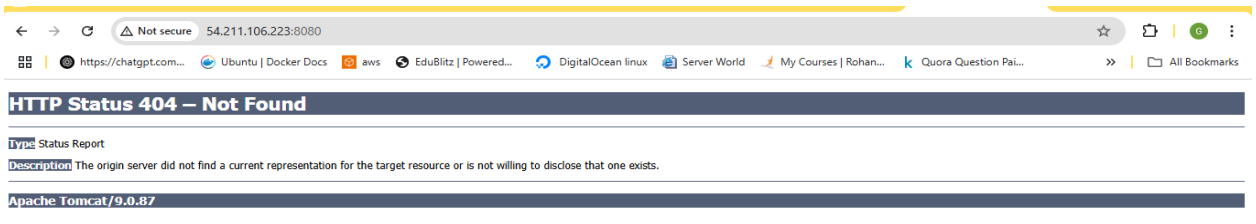
Now we will create a container using tomcat image

docker run -d -p 8080:8080 --name tomcat-server tomcat

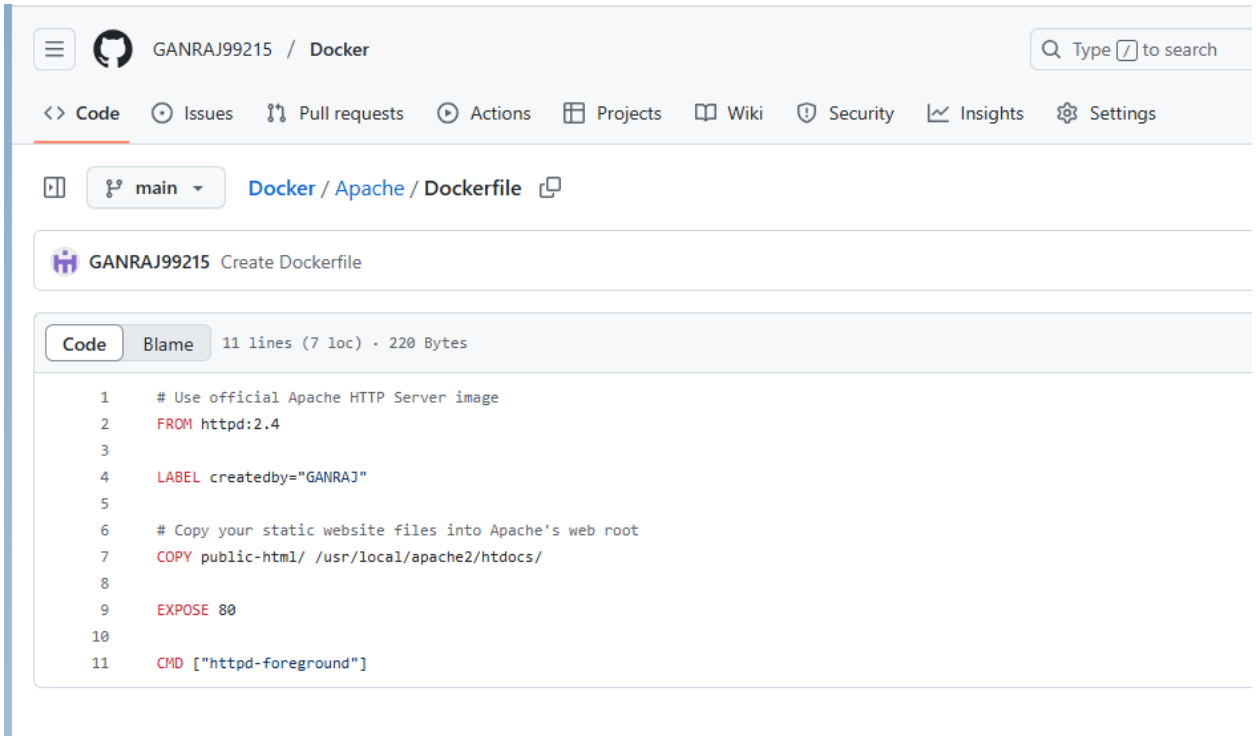
using this command we have created one container named as tomcat-server as you can see snap below.



But as you viewed the dockerfile for tomcat we have used base image as its own (official) image which is already generated .because the tomcat base image because it saves time, reduces complexity, and follows best practices for containerized apps.



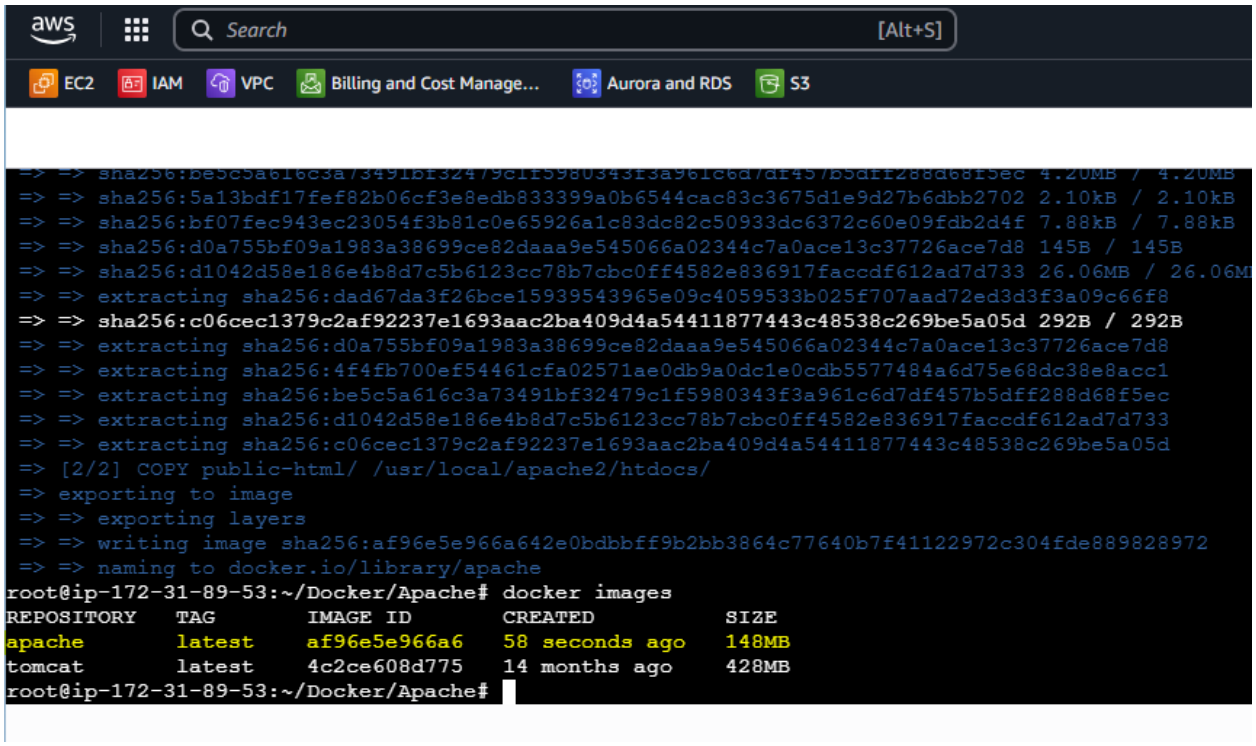
3)Apache2(httpd) :-



Line	What It Does
`FROM httpd:2.4`	Uses the official Apache server image (2.4 is the version).
`LABEL createdby="GANRAJ"`	Optional info about who created/maintains the image.
`COPY public-html/ /usr/local/apache2/htdocs/`	Puts your HTML files into Apache's default root folder.
`EXPOSE 80`	Declares port 80 as open (you still need `-p` during `docker run`).
`CMD ["httpd-foreground"]`	Keeps Apache running in the foreground — required for containers to stay alive.

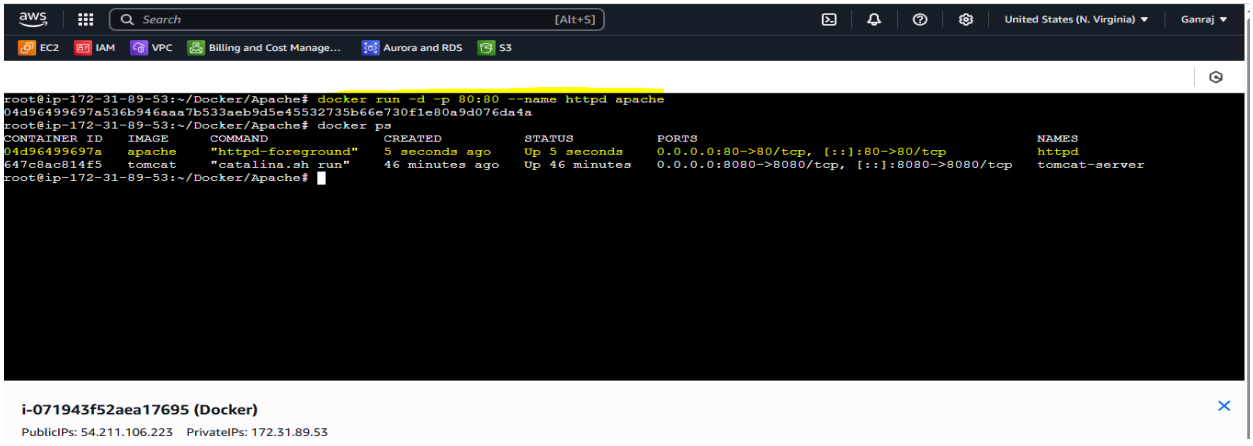
Now we will build image from this docker file

docker build –t apache .



Using this docker image we will create a container httpd

docker run –d –p 80:80 --name httpd apache



When you access your server using host: port you will see your server is running using container