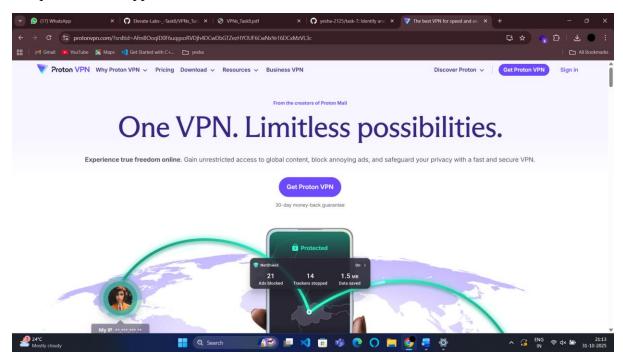
Task 8: Working with VPNs.

Aim: Understand the role of VPNs in protecting privacy and secure communication.

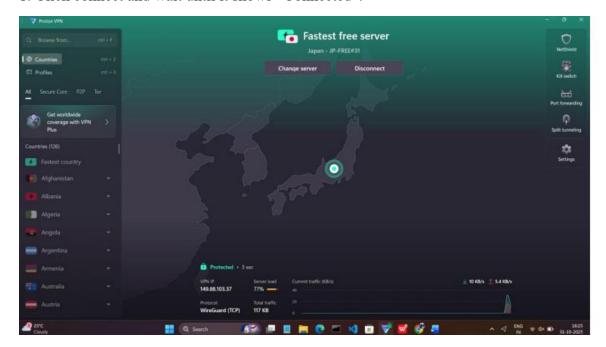
Requirements: Free VPN client - ProtonVPN.

Steps:

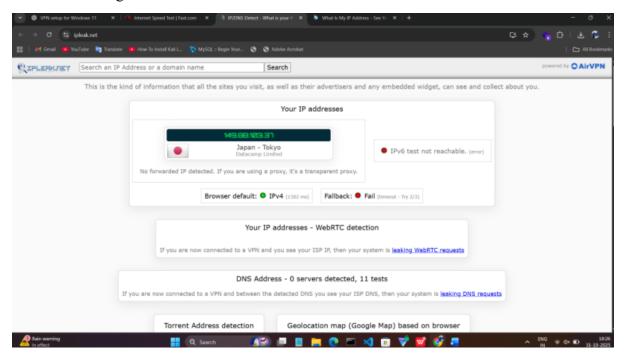
1. Open the VPN app.

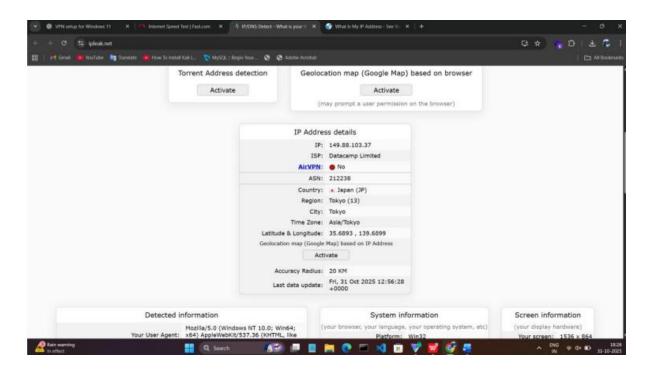


- 2. After Connecting VPN:
- 1. Click connect and wait until it shows "Connected".

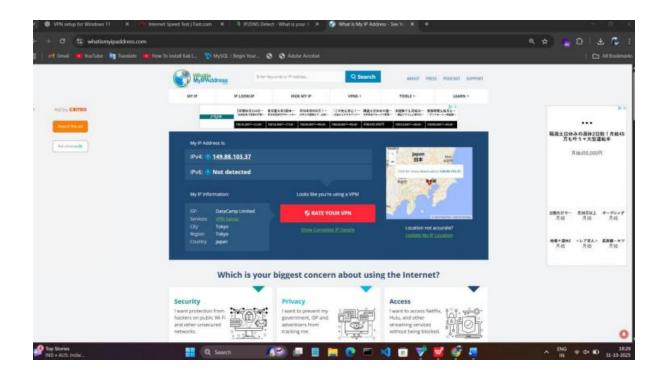


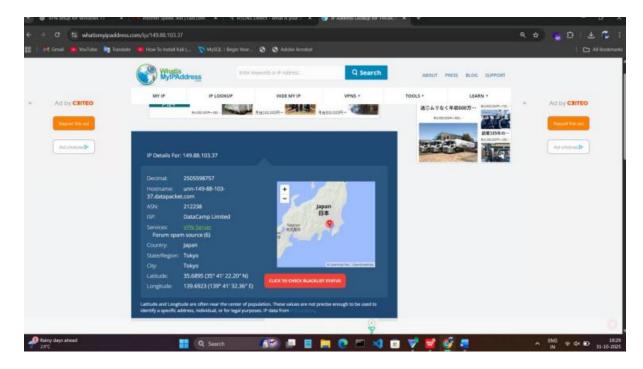
2. Check the new VPN IP and DNS leak test results to check whether the encryption of VPN tunnel is working.





3. Check IP address and location

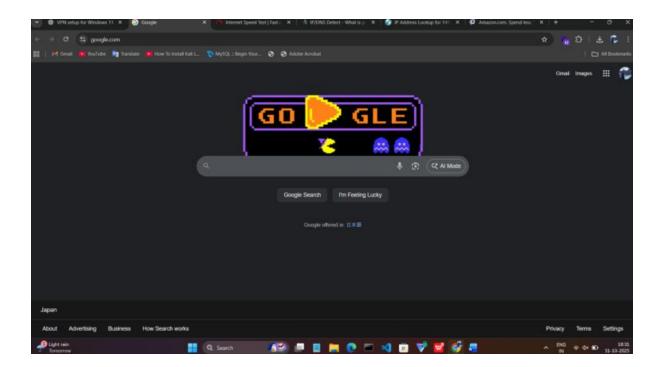


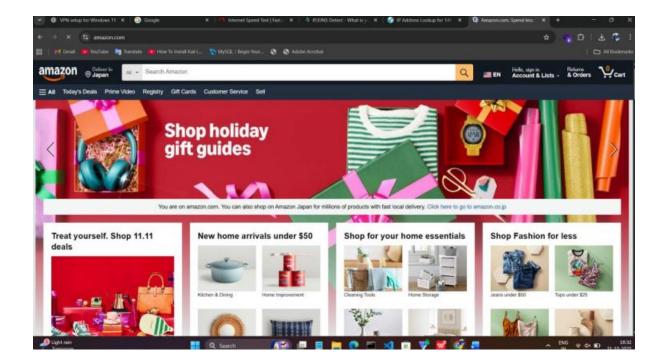


4. Check browsing speed



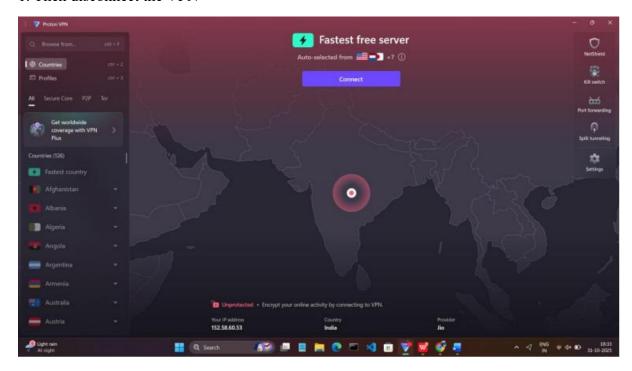
5. Visit websites to check the connection and speed.



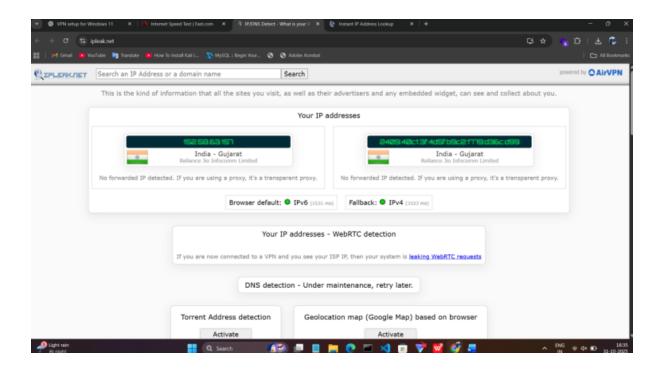


3. After Disconnecting VPN:

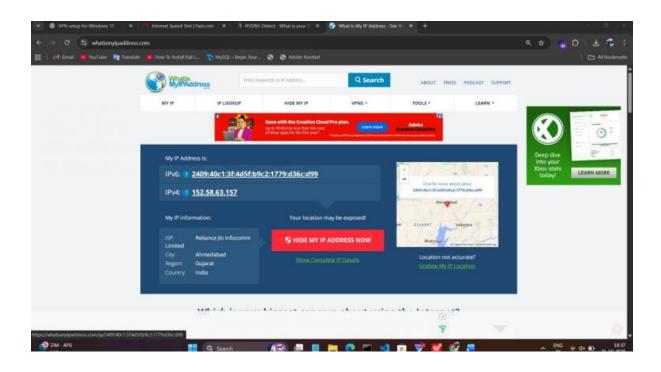
1. Then disconnect the VPN



2. Check your new original IP and DNS leak test results showing



3. See your location and IP Address.



4. Check the internet speed



4. VPN Encryption and Privacy Features:

1. Encryption Standard:

ProtonVPN uses AES-256-bit encryption, which is a military-grade standard. This ensures that even if someone intercepts the traffic, they cannot decrypt or read it.

2. VPN Protocols:

It supports OpenVPN, IKEv2/IPSec, and WireGuard protocols. These create a secure "tunnel" for data transfer between your device and the VPN server.

3. Secure Core Servers:

ProtonVPN routes traffic through multiple servers (in privacy-friendly countries) before it exits to the internet, adding an extra layer of protection.

4. DNS Leak Protection:

During the test, the DNS leak check showed that all DNS queries went through the VPN — confirming no data leaks.

5. Kill Switch & Always-On VPN:

It has a built-in Kill Switch, which automatically blocks all internet traffic if the VPN disconnects unexpectedly — preventing IP exposure.

- 5. Benefits and Limitations of VPN:
- → Benefits
- 1. Enhanced Privacy:

VPN hides your real IP address and location, making your online activities more private.

2. Data Encryption:

Encrypts all internet traffic, protecting sensitive data on public Wi-Fi or shared networks.

3. Bypass Restrictions:

Allows access to geo-blocked websites and content that might be unavailable in your region.

4. Protection from Tracking:

Prevents ISPs, advertisers, or hackers from tracking browsing activities.

5. Safe Public Wi-Fi Usage:

Provides a secure encrypted tunnel even on unsecured Wi-Fi networks (like cafés or airports).

→ Limitations

1. Reduced Speed:

Internet speed may drop slightly due to encryption and routing through distant servers.

2. Free Tier Restrictions:

Free VPNs (like ProtonVPN's basic plan) have limited server locations and moderate speeds.

3. No Complete Anonymity:

A VPN hides your IP but doesn't make you completely anonymous online.

4. Connection Drops:

Temporary disconnections may expose your real IP unless the Kill Switch is enabled.

5. Potential Compatibility Issues:

Some streaming or banking sites block VPN traffic.