Law of Conservation of Angular Momentum.

Newton's second law for rotational motion $\vec{\tau} = \frac{d\vec{L}}{dt}$

So if the net external torque on a particle (or system) is zero then $\frac{d\vec{L}}{dt} = 0$

i.e. $\vec{L} = \vec{L}_1 + \vec{L}_2 + \vec{L}_3 + ...$ = constant.

Angular momentum of a system (may be particle or body) remains constant if resultant torque acting on it zero.

As $L = I\omega$ so if $\vec{\tau} = 0$ then $I\omega = \text{constant}$ $\therefore I \propto \frac{1}{\omega}$

Since angular momentum $I\omega$ remains constant so when I decreases, angular velocity ω increases and vice-versa.

Examples of law of conservation of angular momentum:

(1) The angular velocity of revolution of a planet around the sun in an elliptical orbit increases when the planet come closer to the sun and vice-versa because when planet comes closer to the sun, its moment of inertia I decreases therefore ω increases.

(2) A circus acrobat performs feats involving spin by bringing his arms and legs closer to his body or vice-versa. On bringing the arms and legs closer to body, his moment of inertia I decreases. Hence ω increases.

(3) A person-carrying heavy weight in his hands and standing on a rotating platform can change the speed of platform. When the person suddenly folds his arms. Its moment of inertia decreases and in accordance the angular speed increases.

(4) A diver performs somersaults by Jumping from a high diving board keeping his legs and arms out stretched first and then curling his body.

(5) Effect of change in radius of earth on its time period

Angular momentum of the earth $L = I\omega = \text{constant}$

$$L = \frac{2}{5}MR^2 \times \frac{2\pi}{T} = \text{constant}$$

$\therefore$ $T \propto R^2$

[If M remains constant]

If R becomes half then time period will become one-fourth i.e. $\frac{24}{4} = 6 hrs.$