

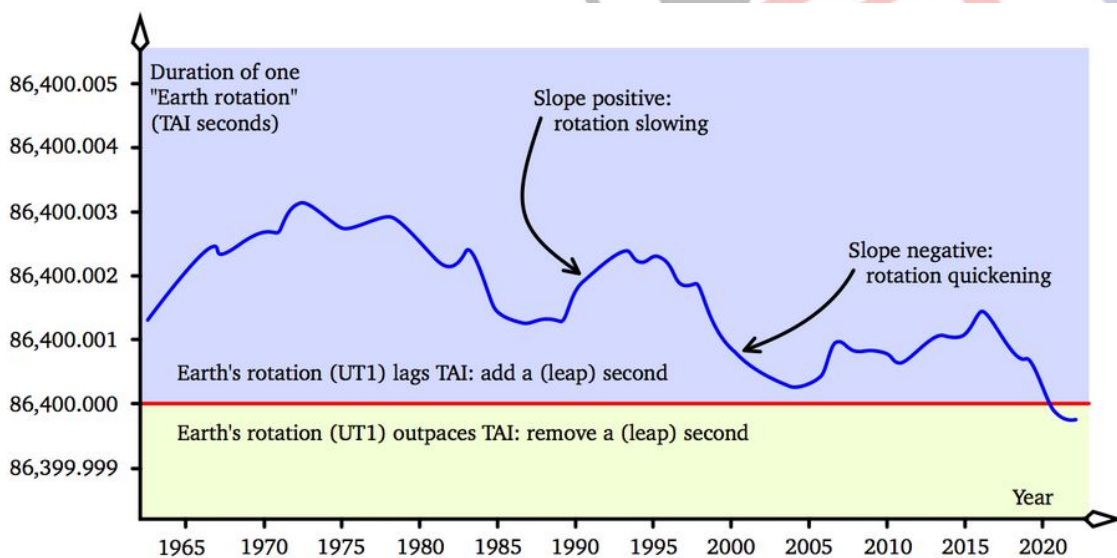


Negative Leap Second

Source: IE

A recent study shows that **Climate change** is causing **glaciers and ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica to melt at an accelerating rate, redistributing weight** across the planet and slightly **slowing down the Earth's rotation** on its axis.

- The Earth has been spinning slightly faster than normal for a few decades.
- Timekeepers have **added an extra "leap second" to clocks worldwide** to adjust for this increase in speed of Earth's rotation – they have done this **27 times since the 1970s**.
 - The plan was to remove this leap second for the first time in 2026, a change they called the **"Negative leap second."**
- According to the recent study, the **accelerating melt of ice** from Antarctica and Greenland has acted like a **brake, slowing the rotation back down**, and potentially **delaying the need for a "negative leap second"** adjustment until 2029 or later.



Read More: [IPCC Reports and Equity in Climate Change Mitigation](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiiias.com/printpdf/negative-leap-second>