

Thursday, February 4

ON THIS DAY



▲ **2009:** Märklin, the 150-year-old German model train manufacturer, went bankrupt, becoming another casualty of the global recession

1793: Slavery was abolished in all French territories

1978: Junius Jayawardene was sworn in as Sri Lanka's first president

1994: Japan launched the H-2 rocket, the first large rocket to use only Japanese-developed technology

2009: Fossils from Colombia revealed the largest snake ever found. It lived 58 to 60 million years ago and was around 13 metres long