



February 4, 1948

▲ **Ceylon became a self-governing independent state within the British Commonwealth. The island became a republic and was renamed Sri Lanka in 1972**

1993: Russia used a large mirror to reflect sunlight, casting a dim beam of light across night-time Europe

2003: The federation of Yugoslavia was dissolved after nearly 74 years

2004: The website Facebook was launched as thefacebook.com. The prefix "The" was later dropped

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