

Sri Lanka ends travel ban for arrivals, 14-day quarantine must

A Monitor Report

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Colombo : Sri Lanka on May 26 announced to lift the temporary travel ban on inbound travellers from June 1, except for passengers who stayed in India in the last 14 days of arrival.

All inbound flights, however, are now limited to a maximum of 75 passengers and they are subjected to a 14-day quarantine period.

"Any passenger with a travel history to India including transit in the past 14 days will not be permitted to arrive," the civil aviation office said in a statement.

Foreign nationals, seafarers, businessmen, investors and others are required to obtain approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enter the island along with the entry visa.

"A negative PCR test must be taken by all categories of travellers before departure point of origin as per airline or country requirements. And all passengers must adhere to the paid quarantine procedure."

The Colombo airport was acting as a transit hub for Indians travelling to West Asia, but the facility was withdrawn in early May due to the current surge in the

pandemic.

Before the resurgence of the virus, Sri Lanka and India were making arrangements for a tourism travel bubble which had been ultimately suspended.

India remained Sri Lanka's top inbound travel market before the onset of the pandemic. Sri Lanka has reported 1.7 lac Covid-19 cases so far with 1,269 deaths.

Tourists arriving in Sri Lanka can refer to the Tourist Board direction at <http://www.srilanka.travel/helloagain>.