

Tourist arrivals on the rise signalling recovery

- June arrivals almost double from May but sharply down from a year ago
- Cumulative arrivals in first half of 2019 down 13.4% to little over 1mn
- Sri Lanka was targeting 2.5mn tourists before Easter Sunday attacks
- Highest number of tourist arrivals in June recorded from India

The tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka in June almost doubled from a month ago after the April 21 Easter Sunday carnage, although the arrivals were over 50 percent down from a year ago, the data released by the country's tourism office showed.

Sri Lanka was able to welcome 63,072 tourists in June, up from 37,802 tourists in May. However, on a year-on-year (YoY) basis, the arrivals fell 57 percent from 146,828 visitors recorded for June 2018.

Accordingly, the cumulative arrivals for the first half of the year fell 13.4 percent YoY to just over a million tourists. Sri Lanka received 1.16 million tourists in the first half of 2018 and 2.33 million for the full year. The arrival target set for this year before the terrorist attacks was 2.5 million.

The Easter Sunday bombings by home-grown jihadist terrorists dealt a deadly blow to the country's booming tourism industry,

MORE ON P4

Monthly tourist arrivals

