

JAISHANKAR ON 2-DAY VISIT TO SEYCHELLES

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This is India's first high-level interaction with Seychelles after election of Wavel Ramkalawan as its president

NEW DELHI: India's foreign minister S. Jaishankar arrived in Seychelles on Friday on a two-day visit, the first high-level interaction with the Indian Ocean archipelago nation since the October elections saw Indian-origin Wavel Ramkalawan take office as the new president.

Jaishankar is seen as the first foreign dignitary to arrive for an "in person" visit to the country since the start of the pandemic. Seychelles has made an exception in the case of the Indian minister, allowing the visit to take place.

Jaishankar was carrying a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for president Ramkalawan.

The main aim of the trip is to "understand President Ramkalawan's development priorities to strengthen bilateral cooperation," said a person familiar with the developments.

"Thank Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan for receiving me today. Conveyed the greetings of PM @narendramodi and handed over a personal message. Discussed our close security cooperation, strong development partnership and long-standing people-to-people contacts," Jaishankar said in a Twitter post on Friday.

After meeting his counterpart, Jaishankar in another Twitter post said: "Appreciate the warm welcome to Seychelles accorded by FM Radeconde. Look forward to working with him closely to take our partnership forward."

Ramkalawan, a former Anglican priest, defeated Danny Faure after three decades of unsuccessful runs for the presidency of the East African nation, according to a Reuters report.

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