IMD INCLUDES POK IN WEATHER FORECASTS

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The India Meteorological Department's Regional Meteorological Centre has started including cities in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in its forecasts, a departure from its previous format, officials said on Thursday.

The IMD has started including Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad, which are parts of PoK, under the Jammu and Kashmir meteorological sub-division since May 5, said Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the Regional Meteorological Department that gives forecast for the northwest meteorological division of the IMD.

IMD Director-General M. Mohapatra said it had been mentioning areas under PoK under its daily weather bulletin ever since the State was bifurcated into Union Territories in August last year.

The development assumes significance as India has maintained that the area under PoK belongs to India. The inclusion of Muzaffarabad and Gilgit-Baltistan comes amid Pakistan's Supreme Court allowing elections in Gilgit-Baltistan this week, to which India had strongly reacted.

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