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Islamabad's "Poh di Jharri" Spells: A Four Season Snapshot

Based on Bahria Enclave min-by-min data climatology

1. What Counts as Poh di Jharri?

In Islamabad, winter rain takes many forms, but the most distinct and culturally recognized is Jharri, the cold, steady rain produced by well-organized Western Disturbances. In Islamabad and nearby regions, Poh is the deep winter stretch from 15 December to 15 January. When a light, continuous drizzle falls in this period, people lovingly call it "Poh di jharri." It is that cold, soaking rain that makes shawls, kahwa, and heaters feel compulsory. Roads stay wet, hills stay misty, and the whole day feels like a slow, grey, winter pause.

These combined cultural and scientific lenses allow us to isolate meaningful winter rain events and analyse how Islamabad's winter rainfall has evolved across the last four years.

2. Four-Winter Comparison

Table: Seasonal Summary (Cold-Wet Jharri Days)

Winter Season	Days Analyzed	Poh di Jharri	% of Window	Total Rain (mm)	Rain from Cold-Wet Days (mm)	% from Cold-Wet	Avg Temp on Cold-Wet Days (°C)
2021–22	30	3	9.1%	18.0	17.8	97.5%	8.9
2022–23	32	4	12.5%	27.6	26.0	94.2%	10.5
2023–24	32	0	0%	1.2	0	0%	–
2024–25	30	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	–



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Interpretation

- 2022-23 is the only winter with multiple strong cold-wet spells.
- 2021-22 shows one significant late-December storm.
- 2023-24 and 2024-25 show no proper winter rain events in this period.
- Most winter rainfall is increasingly concentrated into fewer, isolated systems.

4. What These Patterns Show

Meteorological

- These events represent the true winter signature of Islamabad.
- Only 2022-23 shows a healthy WD season.
- A clear weakening and shifting of winter systems is visible in recent years.

Environmental

- Cold-wet days deliver almost all soil moisture,
- Produce effective air cleansing,
- And regulate Islamabad's winter ecology.

Social and Cultural

Cold-wet Jharri days define the classic Islamabad winter experience:

- Heaters, chai, quiet misty streets
- Margalla covered in low clouds
- The feeling of "real winter has arrived"

Their decline is noticeable to both residents and forecasters.

5. Conclusion

Across four winters, a clear pattern emerges. The 2022-23 season stands out as the last truly strong winter with multiple cold-wet rain spells, while 2021-22 contributed a single classic Jharri event. In contrast, both 2023-24 and 2024-25 were weak, dry seasons that lacked any meaningful winter storms. Overall, Jharri events are becoming less frequent and more compressed, increasing their climatological significance. Their declining presence now serves as an important indicator of Islamabad's shifting winter climate.





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