

A BRIEF PROFILE OF LARKANA

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LARKANA AT GALANCE

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Location

A glance of the map of Sindh reveals that Larkana, from location point of view enjoys a strategic position. After Karachi it is largest city on the west bank of river Indus in Sindh. It include on an area of 7423sq Km. with a population of 1927066. It lies on 27° 33' North latitude and 65° 16' East longitude. The city is located in upper Sindh at a distance of about 85 km south west of Sukkur. Important towns in the vicinity of Larkana include Dokri, Naudero, Ratodero, Qambar, Bakrani, Shahdadkot, Badah and Miro Khan.

Larkana before Partition

'Hujaee nano ta ghum Larkano' if you have the money, then visit Larkana. That's one of the most popular idioms by which Larkana has been described right from its existence. Known to be a poetic city with a romantic aura in the air, Larkana projected a loving feeling despite the fact that it lacked the beauty or precision seen in Shikarpur or Karachi. Larkana has been famous for the Guawa fruit production. But above and all these descriptions, Larkana derives its historical importance from the fact that it is the actual cradle in Sindh to the mother of all civilizations, namely Moen-jo-Daro or the mound of the Dead, which is located in the vicinity of Larkana.

Larkana was founded about 300y ago by a tribe of Sindh called "*Laraks*" on the banks of the Ghaad Waah, which was dug at the behest of the kalhora rulers, it had fruit and flower garden along it and in time settlers like the sailors from 'Laar' came and settled down here which got the place christened Larkana

This place actually progressed under the British rule in the early 20th century and went to be the headquarter of the province in 1901 AD with its main towns being Nao Deroo Qamber and Rato Dero. Larkana got status of Municipal Committee in 1855 AD. With the completion of the Sukkur Barrage in 1931 towards the west of Larkana was the Dadu Canal and in the east the Rice Canal which went on to become a place for cultural gatherings in the initial days but with the onset of the Rice Canal the Ghaad Waah started drying up and the place lost its charm.

This place has been often referred to as the 'Eden of Sind' or 'Shiraz of Sind' or even 'Bang-e-Anam' which led to it being known as the Garden City. This probably came about on the basis of the numerous garden that were there in the city, the most famous being the 'Tajar Baugh' and 'Gyan Baugh' apart from 'Tolani Baugh', 'Riyali Baugh', 'Baaey-jo-Baugh', 'Thanwar Baugh', 'Karamam Baugh', 'Lahori Baugh', 'Dharami Baugh', 'Lekhraj Baugh'. Amongst these gardens the mangoes from Tolani Baugh and the beir from Dharami Baugh were famous throughout the world and much in demand. Two public parks also adorned the city namely 'Bolus Park' which was used for political and social gatherings and 'Mazdoor Park' which was an open air study place for the budding students. Modern Larkana.

Role of the City

Larkana is the most important city in the North West Sindh. Being hometown of many political personalities, it exercises a countrywide influence. Larkana got status of Divisional Headquarter in 1988 comprising three districts i. e. Larkana, Jacobabad, Shikarpur.

Climate of Larkana

The district has extreme climate in summer, which is hot and moderate in winter. The network of canals and general-moisture of soil during the summer add moisture to the heat. The heat continues up to the middle of October, after which nights become cool and the day temperature also begins to recede. The district being situated far away from the sea is devoid of sea breeze.

The mean maximum and minimum temperature in summer season is approximately 43 centigrade and 33 centigrade while that of the winter season 21 centigrade and 11 centigrade respectively. The average annual rainfall is about 100 to 125 millimeters per year. Dust storms are common and hot winds blow continuously for about 40 days around the middle of May every year.

Physical Features

Larkana city is divided into three parts having two physical barriers i.e. railway line and Rice Canal. The old town is located towards east of railway line which is densely populated and has already developed as a commercial and retail center. This part comprises Qafila Sirai, Ali Goharabad, Galib Nagar, Surahia Padhar, Kadri Muhalla, Ghareeb Mukaam, Leelaabad, Karma Bagh, Daree Muhalla, Gajanpure, Murad Wahan, Allahabad, Zulifiqua Bagh, Jinnah Bagh.

The second part of the city is between railway line and Rice canal towards the west of the old town. Main buildings and muhalla's in this part are Circuit House, Sir Shahnawaz Library, Chandka Medical College, Chandka Medical Hospital, SP office, DC office, High Court, Pilot Secondary School, STN TV station, Boys Degree College, Lahorri Muhalla, Peoples Colony, Doctors Colony.

Third part is located between Rice canal and on both sides of Ghar Wah, north west of the town. Newly developed Municipal housing Colony, Shaikh Zaid Woman's Hospital, Commissionerate building, District Jail, Childrens' Hospital, Director Education, Larkana FM Radio station, Shaikh Zaid Colony, Police training center

Educational Institutions

Educational Institutions in Larkana are Chandka Medical College, Z. A. Bhutto Agricultural College, Cadet College, Government Degree Colleges For boys and Girls,

Arts & Commerce College, Oriental College, Law College, SZABIST-Campus. The literacy rate in Larkana district is 35%.

Statistics of Larkana city

Population of city: population of district 19,27066. male 993576, female. 933490 literacy 34.94%. ,male ratio 47%, female ratio 34%.

According to census 1998, population of other towns of the district

Shahdadt	0.0672 millions
Kambar	0.0673 millions
Rato Dero	0.0456 millions
Badah	0.0375 millions
Nauo Dero	0.0316 millions
Nasirabad	0.0271 millions
Warah	0.0183 millions
Dokri	0.0182 millions
Miro Khan	0.0102 millions
Geralo	0.0067 millions

There are 19804 villages in the district. The total population of these villages is 1.47 millions.

Roads and Streets:

Roads/streets (width more than 25 ft) = 66 miles

Roads/streets (width less than 25 ft) = 275 miles

Cinema Houses

Empire, Nigar and Chelopetra

Public Parks

Jinnah Bagh, Zulfiquar Bagh, Shahnawaz Childrens Park, New Railway Park 1 & 2, Nawa Tak Park, Kamal Atta Turk Park and Tank Chowk Park

Other statistical data

No. of Schools & Colleges in the district

Primary Schools	2687
Seconday Schools	135

Colleges, Institutes	81
Health Hospitals	13
Basic health units	59
Dispensaries	12

Festivals

Four main festivals are held annually in Larkana district, one in the honour of Pirsher at Taluka Larkana, other in memory of Mian Ghulam Siddique at Shahdadkot, the 3rd at Mirokhan Taluka in the name of Hakimshah Pat Waro and 4th fair is organized at Kambar Taluka in the memory of Mian Shahal Muhammad Kalhoro.

Agriculture System

The principal crops during rabi are wheat, matter, gram and oil-seeds and in kharif paddy and jawar. In addition to these crops there are subsidiary crops known as zaid rabi, zaid kharif and dobari.

A statement showing area and production of some major crops are given blow:

Crop	Area (hector)	Production (Metric ton)
Rice	211,879	630,307
Wheat	71,912	120,125
Sugarcane	389	13,454
Barely	2,753	1,252
Rape and Mustard	14,291	11,301
Masoor	2,144	1,018
Matter	22,331	11,493
Onion	717	7,446

Irrigation

The network of barrage canals irrigates the entire area of the district between the two protective bunds. These are Rice Canal, Dadu Canal, Kirthar Canal and Warah Branch. Out of these only Rice canal is the non-perennial, while the others are perennial canals.

Rice canals runs through the district for 76kilometres the Dadu canals for 80kilometres. The Warah for 84 kilometrees and the Khirthar canal for 60 kilometres.

The katcha area of Larkana, RatoDero and Dokri taulkas within the protective bunds is brought under cultivation during Rabi season, which is termed as “Sialbi” cultivation. Similarly, on the other side of the protective bund towards the kohistan tract, a large area is brought under cultivation there are sufficient rains. Some areas are also being cultivated through recently installed tube wells.

Horticulture

Climate of Larkana district is suitable for growing guava, lemon, mangoes and date. Due to water-logging and salinity, dates can grow better than other fruits. Good quality of mangoes and guava are generally grown in Ratedero, Dokri, and Larkana taulkas. In SahadaKot and Warah taulkas, water melons are grown in abudsance and they are also of good quality. Vegetables of all kinds are grown in the district.

A statement showing area and production of major fruits are given blow:

Fruit	Area (Hectares)	Production (Metric ton)
Guava	3062	23371
Mangoes	712	4969
Lemons	60	149
Dates	87	154
Ber	65	394

Livestock

The distinct is not rich in cattle wealth. Some cattles, specially, bullocks and cows are imported from Bhangri area of the adjoining districts in Baluchistan province., the buffalo, sheep and goat are of common Sindhi species.

A statement showing number of livestock in the district are as under:

Livestock	Number (in thousand)
Cattle	128
Buffalo	253
Sheep	85
Goat	112
Camel	1
Horse	1

Industries

Industrial Estate in Larkana was established in 1946-65 with aim to promote small industries within the city. It consists on 59 acres and total plots are 313 the size of plots are 1 to 2 canal. Till today 201 plots are allotted presently available occupancy is 20%.

Textile, sugar manufacturing and rice husking are the important industries in the district. At present there are more than 500 industrial units of textile, food manufacturing, ginning and pressing of cotton, rice husking etc.

The main cottage industry is the making of embroidered caps by women particularly in Shahdadtul Taulka. This handicraft has good market in the towns. It is a source of income to the poor people. There are other cottage industries namely, angoshahs, lungi, and sosi.

Trade and Trade Centre

Larkana is the main trading center of the district. Shahdadtul is also an important trading center for wheat, rice and fruit. The other important trading centers are Kamber, RatoDero and Dokri. The cottage industry of embroidery caps particularly in Shahdadtul Taulka has a good market in the district as well as outside the district. The main items of trade like wheat, rice, oil-seeds, mangoes and guavas are supplied to other parts of Pakistan.

Vocation of Larkana

Gas welding, Plumbing, Carpentry, Garment making/Tailoring, Gold Smith, Car/motor repairing, Denting & Painting, Mechanized Farming and Gardening, Apprenticeship for Sugar Industry, Cattle farming, Dairy farming, Rice and Flour mills, Textiles, Electric, Wiring, Motor winding, TV, Radio and Tape Recorder service.

Banks Banking/Financial Institutions

In Larkana District, Habib Bank Ltd. (HB), National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), United Bank Ltd. (UBL), Allied Bank Ltd. (ABL), Askari Bank and Muslim Commercial Bank (MCB) provide Commercial Banking Services, while Agricultural Development Bank of Pakistan (ADBP) provides credit services for the farmers. A branch of small business Finance Corporation is also there to finance small business enterprises. The Principal business of the banks in Larkana District is remittance of money which comes from Agricultural products and Traders, however lending of money from the banks is also common among business community.

The agricultural Development Bank of Paksitan has a mandate to provide loans to farmers for better production of wheat and rice. After financing , the bank keeps track of its investment and on evolution of loan utilization is made usually land property is mortgaged and a loan upto 61 percent of their value can be provided on which a 14.5 percent mark up is charged, some times present guarantee is also acceptable if the loan demanded is up to 50000.00

The small business finance corporation (SBFC) has its branch in Larkana city to provide loans to the farmers, traders by requiring a land ownership certificates as mortgaging document.

The Muslim Commercial Bank Ltd. has started ATM Service in the Larkana city. It has two ATM machines in the Larkana city, which has benefited the Traders and businessmen in the walk of banking technology.

Hotels

HOTEL SAMBARA INN

Raza Shah Kabir VIP Road Larkana,Nearby Circuit House (D.C.O. House)

HOTEL SAPNA INN

Station Road Larkana.

HOTEL ROYAL CITY

Royal Road Larkana.

HOTEL GREEN PALACE

Royal Road Larkana.

HOTEL PARIS INN

Station Road Larkana.

Industrialization in Larkana District

The ever-growing population of Larkana and nearby districts calls for the development and promotion of local industries particularly in the fields of consumer products. The industrialization process will help to eradicate unemployment, poverty and crimes and will contribute superbly in the micro and macro economic development in the sectors of agriculture, industry and exports. The member of Larkana Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the distributors of consumer products, food products and light engineering products can be encouraged to capitalize the merits of enormous market potential.

Existing Manufacture Units

The existing manufacture units operative in Larkana are flour mills, rice mills, chilies and spices units, processed foods, ice factories, oil mills, plastic pipes, steel pots, clay pots, handicrafts, ready-made garments, candle making, simple to stylish bricks, furniture and gold ornaments.

Potential Areas

The new manufacturing units that can be easily set up in Larkana are Seed Processing Unit, Guava and fruit processing plant, dairy milk plant, animal feed, ghee/oil mill, biscuit factory, soaps(all types), washing powder, tooth paste, pharmaceutical unit, electric fans, small electric tools, crockery, cutlery, glassware.

The raw material, manpower, utilities, transport, bank financing, and all other salient infrastructure is available here to set up the industries.

Incentive Scheme for Industrialization

Alike, many other industrial projects and Smeda's Industrial Estate Lahore.

Feasible Incentive Scheme for Industrialization is portrayed hereunder in a flow chart:

- Provision of industrial plots at subsidized rates.
- Provision of 20 year long term project financing at 8% mark up against land mortgage and on the basis of commercial valuation of plots.
- Bank financing for floor-by-floor eradication of factory building.
- Bank financing or lease of machinery with tracker system to avoid theft.
- Provision of working capital for operative requisites.
- Mortgage of building and collateral of finished stock and relaxation of mark up for initial 6 months.

Potential Projects Identified by SMEDA

- Modern Rice Mill
- Seed Processing Unit (Rice)
- Solvent Plant
- Guava and Fruit Processing Unit
- Chip Board Factory
- Cement Factory
- Tomato Paste
- Edible Oil Production
- Fruit Processing
- Dairy Milk Plant
- Amusement Park (zoo, fun land and water park)
- CNG Station
- Small electric tools
- Biscuit factory
- Soap and washing powder units

