



## LAVĀSĀN

**LAVĀSĀN**, town and district located in the middle course of the river **Jājrud** in the northwest of Tehran. The district (*bakš*), officially known as Lavāsānāt, constitutes, along with Rudbār-e **Qaṣrān**, the sub-province of Šemirān in the Tehran province. Lavāsānāt comprises two rural districts (*dehestāns*), Greater Lavāsān and Lesser Lavāsān—thus the plural form “Lavāsānāt.” The administrative center of Lavāsānāt is the town of Lavāsān, situated at lat 35.8° N, long 51.6° E, elev. 1,700 m.

The district of Lavāsānāt spreads approximately 600 km<sup>2</sup>, with the highest peak, Sarsiāhqār, standing 3,440 m tall in the central **Alborz** (Maḥmudiān, 2002, pp. 75-77). According to the decennial census of 1996, the population of Lavāsānāt was 8,079, which grew nearly threefold to 22,626 within a decade (Markaz-e āmār-e Irān). The district has 47 settlements, which were traditionally engaged in farming, but have mostly turned into summer resorts for the residents of Tehran in recent decades. The natives of Lavāsānāt are of Caspian stock and the local vernacular is a blend of Persian and Caspian, approaching Māzandarāni in the southeastern villages of Irā and Veskāra (Borjian, p. 46). The village Lavāsān-e-bozorg, the seat of Greater Lavāsān, has an old mosque, with a carved wooden door and a pulpit from the Safavid period. There are several *emānzādas* in Lavāsānāt, including Emānzāda ‘Abd-Allāh in Jā’ej and Emānzāda Moḥammad-Bāqer in Rudak, whose mausoleum was built by Fath-‘Ali Shah Qajar (Karimān, 1978, I, p. 210; Moḥammad Mirzā, fol. 24). The seat of Lesser Lavāsān is the village Afja.

The town of Lavāsān is situated in the plain of Galandovak on the north bank



of Jājrud, at the confluence of two southerly flowing tributaries, the Kond and the Afja. In the 19th century Lavāsān was a village of considerable size, comprising some 500 houses and 200 inhabitants (Beresford Lovett; Adamec, I, p. 418). In the late 1940s the village had a population of 1,852 (Razmārā, p. 197). Lavāsān was established as a town (*šahr*) in 1970, grew in population from 10,587 in 1996 to 15,706 in 2011 (Markaz-e āmār-e Irān), and is developing rapidly as a pleasant suburb of greater Tehran (Maḥmudiān, p. 67).

In the southeast of Lavāsān a hydroelectric dam by the name of Latiān was built in the 1960s on the Jājrud to provide Tehran and the Varāmin valley with water and electricity. The dam generates annually 50 million kilowatt-hours of electric power (Ministry of Power).

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