

50 Year long ban on export of fresh Apricots from Ladakh lifted

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In news- The sweetest apricot, **Raktsey Karpo**, from Kargil district in the UT of Ladakh has for the first time in 35 years, been sent to an international market in Dubai. A consignment of 150 kg of fresh apricots was sent by Gurgaon-based start-up Krishak Agritech.

About apricots-

- **Apricot**, stone fruit of the family Rosaceae, is closely related to peaches, almonds, plums, and cherries.
- They are cultivated throughout the temperate regions of the world, especially in the Mediterranean.
- They are eaten fresh or cooked and are preserved by canning or drying and are also widely made into jam.
- They are a good source of **vitamin A and are high in natural-sugar content.**
- Dried apricots are an **excellent source of iron.**
- The trees are quite drought-resistant and under favourable growing conditions are long-lived, some living 100 years or longer.
- The apricot was **originally domesticated in China** but is now cultivated on every continent except Antarctica.
- The **top five producers** of apricots are **Turkey, Iran, Uzbekistan, Italy, and Algeria.**
- In India, for decades, the people of Ladakh have consumed it, **locally known as Chuli.**
- An integral part of the local culture, dry and fresh apricots are served as desserts, particularly during traditional festivals.
- It came to be identified as the primary crop for Kargil

under its **One District One Crop Programme.**

- Nearly 62 per cent of India's apricots are produced in Ladakh.