Asoka - Buddhism Questions

Q1. In point form, recall the major events in the life of Asoka.
- He belongs to and is the third King of Mauryan dynasty (his grandfather was the founder of Maurya Dynasty)
- Born: 300 BCE
- Died: 232 BCE
- Converted to Buddhism at age 37 (263 BCE)
- His son, Kunal, became a monk and carried buddhism to Sri Lanka.

Q2. Why is it noteworthy that Asoka was a lay Buddhist who also took an interest in Sangha affairs.
People look up to him because he’s just a normal Buddhist, therefore people can relate to him more and be inspired by his works. Even though he was just a lay buddhist, he took an interest in the Sangha affairs and contributed immensely to Buddhism, proving that you don’t have to be a monk to inspire others and make a difference.

Q3. Explain the contribution of Asoka to Buddhism.
- facilitated Buddhism’s expansion throughout India and internationally
- He constructed Stupas (Sacred Buddhist monuments) in Bodh Gaya and the India-Nepal border (Buddha’s birthplace of Lumbini) and in other places. This represented a direct royal endorsement of Buddhism, especially as it would have been publicised.
- He was a lay Buddhist but also took interest in the affairs of the Sangha (monks) In his famous Schism Edict, for example, he warned the members of the sangha against schismatic activity
- He built shrines and monasteries and inscribed Buddhist teachings on rocks and pillars in many places
- He sent missionaries to countries
- Buddhism received a significant boost of popularity when Asoka converted to Buddhism

Q4. In 2 paragraphs, analyse the impact of Asoka on the development and expression of Buddhism.
- Asoka had a strong influence on the expansion of buddhism, however his influence was indirect rather than a direct case of involvement.
- He taught and convinced people to love and respect all living things
- He made it easier for Buddhism to be spread as he supported the international march during his reign (International march = Buddhist word for evangelise = spreading buddhism teachings etc) through providing financial support and construction of infrastructure, and by allowing buddhism to be practiced. His contribution to this international march was more in the area of financial and infrastructure support rather than direct intervention.
- Asoka ordered construction of roadside resting stops for travelers. This construction of infrastructure helped in the geographical expansion of buddhism
1. In point form, recall the major events in the life of Ashoka.

- Birth of Ashoka: 300 BCE
- Reign begins: 272 BCE
- Marriage: 284 BCE
- Conversion to Buddhism: 263 BCE
- Death in: 232 BCE.

2. Why is it noteworthy that Ashoka was a lay Buddhist who also took an interest in Sangha affairs?

Ashoka displayed a significant interest in Sangha affairs and although he was a lay Buddhist, he was an active participant in the development and expression of Buddhism amongst the Sangha as well as members of the Buddhist community. He was called ‘Ashoka the Great’ amongst the Buddhist community, especially in India, as he continuously strove to incorporate lay Buddhists and other individuals in Sangha affairs and allowed individuals to approach a Buddhist, who impacted Sangha affairs to a great extent, without directly interacting with the Sangha.

3. Explain the contribution of Ashoka to Buddhism.

Ashoka has contributed many significant contributions to the development of Buddhism. Ashoka became the first Buddhist emperor, and he converted to Buddhism in 261 BCE. Ashoka contributed to the development of Buddhism in three important ways. First he applied basic principles of Buddhism to his rule through government and foreign policies. Second and the most significant contribution, Ashoka supported missionaries, he sent them throughout the kingdom in order to spread the teachings of Buddhism. Third, Ashoka was able to maintain Buddhism as a major religious tradition in the kingdom. Ashoka was able to contribute interfaith dialogue; he maintained positive dialogue with people of other religions because he believed all religions are good. Ashoka believed the first precept and generosity were very important in witnessing the faith. Ashoka taught people about Buddhism in different ways to help them best understand all the Buddhist teachings. For example Ashoka taught the educated through writing on edicts and pillars, whereas he taught the uneducated through ministry, stories and paintings. Ashoka strengthens Buddhism through Viharas, he built these shrines in order for the Sangha to worship in and practice their faith. Ashoka established social welfare support because Ashoka believed it was important to support all his people. An example of a social welfare that Ashoka did was he grew medicinal herb gardens and shade areas for all the people. Most importantly Ashoka believed that everyone should be treated with friendliness. Ashoka has been a big part in the development of Buddhism and has contributed many important and significant contributions that are still being used and continue to be followed today.

4. In 2 paragraphs, analyse the impact of Ashoka on the development and expression of Buddhism.
The contributions of Ashoka to Buddhism have had a great impact on the Buddhism community. Ashoka’s contribution of the missionaries has impacted Buddhism significantly; it allowed Buddhism to expand beyond Mauryan Empire. A positive impact Ashoka had was religious tolerance, as now the Buddhism religion is being respected and is expanding to other neighbouring kingdoms. For example, Ashoka sent his son and daughter to Sri Lanka with the missionaries and the impact this had was Sri Lanka converted to Buddhism. Ashoka contributions impacted his kingdom significantly. Through Ashoka the Sangha and Lay people were able to unite through worshiping in the temples and shires. If it weren’t for Ashoka building the Viharas, people wouldn’t have been able to unite together and worship their religious tradition. Buddhism is now publicly worshiped and this is due to one of Ashoka’s contributions. Examples of Ashoka’s contributes that are impacted by public worship of Buddhism is the stupas, temples and rock edicts which are everywhere in the kingdom and visible to the public as they have the Buddhist teachings on them.

Ashoka impacted people as they saw him as a true witness to the faith. This is because Ashoka showed how to correctly live the Buddhist life according to the ethics of Buddhism. Also Ashoka influenced the people around him to adapt Buddhist teachings to their way of life, this is an ethical decision. The significant impact Ashoka left on the Buddhism community is his conversion from a harsh person and a murderer to living by Buddhist ethical standards, which is a very big deal for both Ashoka and his people. Through rock edicts, stupas and missionaries Ashoka was able to promote Buddhist education as equal access to knowledge. The most important impact Ashoka left from his contributions was the importance of social welfare as he showed his people how important social welfare in Buddhism and the care for others is. This was shown through Ashoka’s examples of social welfare, some of these examples include, medicinal herb gardens, hospitals, planting trees and lastly treating everyone friendly and with fairness. People have witnessed Ashoka’s ruling over the kingdom as being a true example for all people of what the lived expression of Buddhism should be through his witness to the faith and this has all significantly impacted all the people of his kingdom and other people from his neighbouring kingdoms who are now Buddhist because of him.
Ashoka Review

1. In point form, recall the major events in the life of Ashoka.
   - Revolt against Kalinga
   - Creation of third council
   - Pilgrimage
   - Interest in sangha
   - Adavanas
   - Schism Edict
   - Infrastructures - Financialism

2. Why is it noteworthy that Ashoka was a lay Buddhist who also took interest in sangha affairs? It place emphasis on his significance and his contribution, demonstrating that the requirement or condition of hierarchy and status in order to create an influential impact should be discarded. With relevance to Buddha as an example and goal for all adherents to become a Buddhist. Although, understandings of each adherent differs, it enables the him to have a broader perception and more relatable.

3. Explain the contribution of Ashoka to Buddhism.
   Ashoka has enabled Buddhism to progress and expand internationally both financially and infrastructurally, allowing the spread of Buddhism to branch, thus, the formation of avadanas, underpins the totality of the Buddhist teachings, with relevance to his formation of his perception of dhamma. The creation of stupas has also reinforces his expansion and internationalism of Buddhism.

4. In two paragraphs, analyse the impact of Ashoka on the development and expression of Buddhism.

   Ashokas literary writing, avadanas encapsulates his development and perception of dhamma, thus underpins the true essence of the teachings in Buddhism, enabling adherents to gain a more broader understanding and knowledge of Buddhism in another perception. Due to creating a civil discourse of both that is religious and sociopolitical, he has developed a new political philosophy that centralises the new view of society and ethical behaviour. This encircles the ideas of compassion, honesty and mutual tolerance which is now one of the main focuses in Buddhism, portraying, how one would develop their behaviours and ethical capacity among these ideas.

   The creation of the third council has also removed and purged aberrant behaviours on the part of monks. Also by assigning diplomatic missions such as to his nephew, has enabled the spread the internationalism of Buddhism, thus is reinforced by the construction infrastructures for the geographical expansion, though this contribution is indirectly derived by Ashoka. Moreover, the construction of stupas are widely accepted and are used as a representation of endorsement
and propaganda, resulting into a further expansion of the religion. From then on, he has supported sangha financially and infrastructurally to the local. Furthermore in future generations, he may be depicted as king whom is directly inspired by Buddhist teachings and so demonstrates that Buddhism are applicable in practical situations of governance.
King Asoka/ The great Asoka
1. In point form, recall the major events in the life of Ashoka.
2. Why is it noteworthy that Ashoka was a lay Buddhist who also took an interest in sangha affairs.
3. Explain the contribution of Ashoka to Buddhism
4. In 2 paragraphs, analyse the impact of Ashoka on the development of and expression of Buddhism.

LOOK AT NOTES!!! SEND to mrs raso.
Sangha (monks and nuns)
- one of the Greatest buddhist king
- Asoka was a king in india (Mauryan emperor), he was hindu.
- During a civil war of death with a river that ran red with blood. He was surveying the damage that his army had inflicted on the recalcitrant Kalinga region. About 100,000 civilians were dead, as well as 10,000 of Ashoka's soldiers.
- Decided to become a buddhist, from a lay person to sangha.
- He made Buddhism international

Youtube video:
- contributed to interfaith dialogue
- he was a follower of Buddha (Buddhist)
- he wanted to expand he’s emperor by fighting and killing the opposition
- From this point he took an oath to never fight again and become a follower of buddha
- the instafrature and financial
- Ashoka felt upset and Far from feeling the glorious rush of victory, Ashoka felt sick and saddened. He vowed that never again would he rain down death and destruction on other people. He would devote himself to his Buddhist faith and practice ahimsa, or nonviolence.

For many years, westerners considered them to be mere legend. They did not connect the ruler Ashoka, grandson of Chandragupta Maurya, to the stone pillars inscribed with edicts that are sprinkled all around the edges of India.

In 1915, however, archaeologists found a pillar inscription that identified the author of those edicts, the well-known Mauryan emperor Piyadasi or Priyadarsi ("Beloved of the Gods"), by his given name. That name was Ashoka. The virtuous emperor from the ancient texts, and the law-giver who ordered the installation of pillars inscribed with merciful laws all over the subcontinent - they were the same man.

Ashoka’s Early Life:

In 304 BCE, the second emperor of the Mauryan Dynasty, Bindusara, welcomed a son into the world. The boy’s mother Dharma was only a commoner, and he had several older half-brothers, so he seemed unlikely to ever rule. This baby was named Ashoka Bindusara Maurya.
Ashoka grew up to be a bold, troublesome and cruel young man. He was extremely fond of hunting; according to legend, he even killed a lion using only a wooden stick. His older half-brothers feared Ashoka, and convinced his father to post him as a general to distant frontiers of the Mauryan Empire. Ashoka proved a competent general, likely much to his brothers' dismay, putting down a rebellion in the Punjabi city of Taxhila.

Aware that his brothers viewed him as a rival for the throne, Ashoka went into exile for two years in the neighboring country of Kalinga. While there, he fell in love with a commoner, a fisher-woman named Kaurwaki. The two later married.

Bindusara recalled his son to Maurya after two years to help quell an uprising in Ujjain, the former capital of the Avanti Kingdom. Ashoka succeeded, but was injured in the fighting. Buddhist monks tended to the wounded prince in secret, so that his eldest brother, the heir-apparent Susima, would not learn of Ashoka's injuries. Their patient learned the basic tenets of Buddhism from them. A woman from Vidisha called Devi also attended Ashoka during this period - he fell in love with her and married her.

When Bindusara died in 275 BCE, a two-year-long war for the succession erupted between Ashoka and his half-brothers. The Vedic sources vary on how many of Ashoka's brothers died; one says that he killed them all, while another states that he killed several of them. In either case, Ashoka prevailed and became the third ruler of the Mauryan Empire.

"Chandashok," or Ashoka the Terrible:

For the first eight years of his reign, Ashoka waged near-constant war. He had inherited a sizable empire, but he expanded it to include most of the Indian subcontinent, as well as the area from the current-day borders of Iran and Afghanistan in the west to Bangladesh and the Burmese border in the east. Only the southern tip of India and Sri Lanka remained out of his reach, plus the kingdom of Kalinga on the northeast coast of India.

In 265, Ashoka attacked Kalinga. Although it was the homeland of his second wife, Kaurwaki, and the king of Kalinga had sheltered Ashoka before his ascent to the throne, the Mauryan emperor gathered the largest invasion force in Indian history to that point and launched his assault. Kalinga fought back bravely, but in the end it was defeated and all of its cities sacked.

Ashoka had led the invasion in person, and he went out into the capital city of the Kalingas the morning after his victory to survey the damage. The ruined houses and bloodied corpses sickened the emperor, and he underwent a religious epiphany. Although he had considered himself more or less Buddhist prior to that day, the carnage at Kalinga led Ashoka to devote himself to Buddhism. He vowed to practice ahimsa from that day forward.
Ashoka the Great:

Had Ashoka simply vowed to himself that he would live according to Buddhist principles, later ages would not remember his name. However, he published his intentions across his empire. Ashoka wrote out a series of edicts, explaining his policies and aspirations for the empire, and urging others to follow his enlightened example.

The Edicts of King Ashoka were carved onto pillars of stone 40 to 50 feet high, and set up all around the edges of the Mauryan Empire as well as in the heart of Ashoka's realm. Dozens of these pillars dot the landscapes of India, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In his edicts, Ashoka vows to care for his people like a father. He promises neighboring people that they need not fear him; he will use only persuasion, not violence, to win people over. Ashoka notes that he has made available shade and fruit trees for the people, as well as medical care for all people and animals.

His concern for living things also appears in a ban on live sacrifices and sport hunting. Ashoka urges his people to follow a vegetarian diet, and bans the practice of burning forests or agricultural wastes that might harbor wild animals. A long list of animals appears on his protected species list, including bulls, wild ducks, squirrels, deer, porcupines, and pigeons.

Ashoka also ruled with incredible accessibility. He notes that "I consider it best to meet with people personally." To that end, he went on frequent tours around his empire. He also advertised that he would stop whatever he was doing if a matter of imperial business needed attention - even if he was having dinner or sleeping, he urged his officials to interrupt him.

In addition, Ashoka was very concerned with judicial matters. His attitude toward convicted criminals was quite merciful. He banned punishments such as torture, the putting out of people's eyes, and the death penalty. He urged pardons for the elderly, those with families to support, etc.

Another principle that Ashoka stressed in his edicts was respect for others. He recommends treating not just parents, teachers and priests with respect, but also friends and even servants.

Finally, although Ashoka urged his people to practice Buddhist values, he fostered an atmosphere of respect for all religions. Within his empire people followed not only the relatively new Buddhist faith, but also Jainism, Zoroastrianism, Greek polytheism and many other belief systems. Ashoka served as an example of tolerance for his subjects, and his religious affairs officers encouraged the practice of any religion.
Ashoka's Legacy:

Ashoka the Great ruled as a just and merciful king from his epiphany in 265 until his death in 232 BCE, at the age of 72. We no longer know the names of most of his wives and children. However, his twin children by his first wife, a boy called Mahinda and a girl named Sanghamitra, were instrumental in converting Sri Lanka to Buddhism.

After Ashoka's death, the Mauryan Empire continued to exist for 50 years, but it went into a gradual decline. The last Mauryan emperor was Brhadrata, who was assassinated in 185 BCE by one of his generals, Pusyamitra Sunga.

Although his family did not rule for long after he was gone, Ashoka's principles and his examples lived on through the Vedas. He is now known the world over as one of the best rulers ever to have reigned.
1. In point form, recall the major events in the life of Asoka.
   • His family turned against him and put him in a dangerous battle
   • He was injured, monks and nuns treated him, he married one of the nuns
   • He won the next battle, killed his evil family and became king
   • He then became a Buddhist, a king of the Mauryan Kingdom, made Buddhism the state religion of his realm

2. Why is it noteworthy that Asoka was a lay Buddhist who also took an interest of Sangha affairs?

3. Explain the contribution of Asoka to Buddhism.
   Asoka contributed to the development of Buddhism through his missionary; he expanded Buddhism to modern day Sri Lanka and Nepal. This expansion was made possible by Asoka's decision that only five monks were needed to consecrate new monks outside his empire. Asoka financially and politically supported missionary activity in other empires, such as his daughter's missionary in Sri Lanka to set up a female Sangha. Asoka also contributed to the development of Buddhism through maintaining Buddhism as a significant religious tradition in the Mauryan Empire. Asoka instructed his people about Buddhism through Rock edicts for the educated, stories and symbols for the uneducated and built stupas all around his realm. This allowed everyone in the Mauryan Empire, regardless of religion, to have access to Buddha. He also believed Buddhism to be the way of spiritual development for all and thus wrote the ways of Buddha in many dialects in order to communicate teachings. Through maintaining the stronghold of Buddhism is his empire Asoka has contributed to the ongoing practice of Buddhism today in numerous countries. A contribution to the development of Buddhism from Asoka also comes in the form of showing that Buddhism was his basis for government and foreign affairs. Asoka used Buddhism as a strong basis for government as he dealt with foreign policy peacefully with diplomacy. His internal affairs were based on toleration and acceptance of difference such as providing social welfare, support of Sangha and dealing with criminals. This made Buddhism grow due to its revolutionary and peaceful manner in dealing with all issues in life which was modelled through Asoka's leadership.

4. In two paragraphs, analyse the impact of Asoka on the development of and expression of Buddhism.

   - instructed the people through construction of pillars and rock carvings outlining religious instruction
   - used storytelling, poetry, sculpture and symbols
   - spread Buddhism and its influence
   - undertook pilgrimages to Buddhist holy sites
- used his wealth and influence to erect sacred symbols, making these significant places
- was an advocate of tolerance towards all religions
- unified many parts of the Indian subcontinent in one powerful Buddhist society.

- showed that Buddhism could provide a strong foundation for government and foreign policy based on peaceful co-existence and diplomacy
- the number of Buddhists increased under his rule in southern India, and his missionary travels spread Buddhism beyond India
- helped develop Buddhism as a religion for all people
- emphasised the importance of ethics in Buddhist life, and its practical application and belief
King Ashoka Questions.

1) In point form, recall the major events in the life of Ashoka.
   - His reign is roughly dated as 269—232 BC.
   - Sometimes required to exercise his power using violence.
   - Became a lay Buddhist twelve years into his reign as king.
   - 251 BC, Third council.

2) Why is it noteworthy that Ashoka was a lay Buddhist who also took an interest in sangha affair?
   The reason of why Ashoka was a lay Buddhist and it's mentioned many times is that even thought he wasn't a monk he still helped out to tell people about Buddhism. He took much labor to explain the principles of the Dhamma with this introducing people to the religion making it worldwide.

3) Explain the contribution of Ashoka to Buddhism.
   Ashoka took an interest in the affairs of the sangha as in he warned the members of the sangha against schismatic activities. Buddhist began it's international march during his reign contributing to the areas of financial infrastructure.

4) In two paragraphs analyse the impact of Ashoka on the development and expression of Buddhism.
   He created a kind of civil discourse, which was both religious and sociopolitical. He placed his view of dhamma at the centre of society and ethical behaviour, which represented honesty, compassion for others including animals and mutual tolerance. Ashoka ordered the construction of roadside resting stops for travelers helped in the geographical areas of Buddhism.

   Ashoka went on a pilgrimage in 248 BCE and went around pilgrimage sites including Bodh Gaya and Buddhist birthplace of Lumbini in India. It is said that during the pilgrimage Ashoka constructed sacred Buddhist monuments. This has been represented direct royal endorsement of Buddhism.
Ashoka questions

1. In point form, recall the major events in the life of Ashoka.
   - His reign is roughly dated as 269—232 BC.
   - Sometimes required to exercise his power using violence. Quelled a revolt in the eastern kingdom of Kalinga.
   - Became a lay Buddhist twelve years into his reign as king.
   - 251 BC, Third council.
   - 250 BC, Ashoka’s nephew was sent to Sri Lanka and introduced Buddhism there.
   - 248 BC, Ashoka made a pilgrimage to some famous Buddhist pilgrimage sites.

2. Why is it noteworthy that Ashoka was a lay Buddhist who also took an interest in sangha affairs?
   It shows that Buddhism does not place much importance on social status and lay Buddhists can participate in affairs that involve the monks who would be considered above them.

3. Explain the contribution of Ashoka to Buddhism.
   In his famous Schism Edict he warned the members of the sangha against schismatic activity. He contributed more to financial and infrastructure support rather than direct intervention. He also demonstrated how Buddhism could be applied within governance. Ashoka took interest in the affairs of the sangha. He warned the members of the sangha against schismatic activity.

4. In two paragraphs, analyse the impact of Ashoka on the development and expression of Buddhism.
   King Ashoka developed his own view of dhamma. He placed his view of dhamma at the centre of society and ethical behaviour, which represented honesty, compassion for others (including animals) and mutual tolerance. Ashoka ordered the construction of roadside resting stops for travellers which helped in the geographical expansion of Buddhism. He spread Buddhism to India and it replaced Hindu as the main religion. This allowed Buddhism to be further developed in other areas of the world.

   On his pilgrimage to famous Buddhist pilgrimage sites he constructed stupas. This represented a direct royal endorsement of Buddhism, which would have encouraged people from different levels of society to provide financial support for the sangha in their local region. This allowed further expansion of the sangha.
1. In point form, recall the major events in the life of Ashoka
   - His reign can be roughly dated as 269-232 BC
   - Ashoka was sometimes required to exercise his power using violence- he quelled a revolt in the eastern Kingdom of Kalinga.
   - During this time he became a lay buddhist and developed his own view of Dhamma
   - Ashoka created a kind of civil discourse which was both religious and sociopolitical around this term and defined his new political philosophy.
   - He employed Dhamma officers to teach it throughout the empire as he placed it as the centre of the new view of society and ethical behaviour.
   - Ashoka has facilitated Buddhism’s expansion throughout India and internationally.

2. Why is it noteworthy that Ashoka was a lay Buddhist who also took an interest in Sangha affairs?
   Ashoka was a lay Buddhist, he was more relatable

3. Explain the contribution of Ashoka to Buddhism
   Asoka contributed to the development of Buddhism through his expansion of his Buddhist state to neighbouring empires. Asoka, through missionary, expanded Buddhism to modern day Sri Lanka and Nepal. This expansion was made possible by Asoka’s decision that only five monks were needed to consecrate new monks outside his empire. Moreover, Asoka financially and politically supported missionary activity in other empires, such as his daughter’s missionary in Sri Lanka to set up a female Sangha.

   Asoka also contributed to the development of Buddhism through maintaining Buddhism as a significant religious tradition in the Mauryan Empire. Asoka instructed his people about Buddhism through Rock edicts for the educated, stories and symbols for the uneducated and built stupas (shrines). This allowed everyone in the Mauryan Empire, regardless of religion, to have access to Buddha. He also believed Buddhism to be the way of spiritual development for all and thus wrote the ways of Buddha in many dialects in order to communicate teachings. Through maintaining the stronghold of Buddhism is his empire Asoka has contributed to the ongoing practise of Buddhism today in numerous countries. A contribution to the development of Buddhism from Asoka also comes in the form of showing that Buddhism was his basis for government and foreign affairs. Asoka used Buddhism as a strong basis for government as he dealt with foreign policy peacefully with diplomacy. His internal affairs were based on toleration and acceptance of difference such as providing social welfare, support of Sangha and dealing with criminals. This made Buddhism grow due to its revolutionary and peaceful manner in dealing with all issues in life which was modelled through Asoka’s leadership.

4. In 2 paragraphs, analyse the impact of Ashoka on the development of and expression of Buddhism
1. In point form, recall the major events in the life of Ashoka.

- 300 BCE - Birth of Asoka
- 272 BCE - Ashoka’s reign as emperor began with a series of wars.
- 284 BCE - Marriage. He conquered more lands and added them to his empire. The huge loss of life and suffering witnessed on the battlefield made him turn away from war.
- 263 BCE - He was extremely influenced by Buddhism and he converted to Buddhism by adopting the dharma principles.
- 232 BCE - Death

2. Why is it noteworthy that Ashoka was a lay Buddhist who also took an interest in Sangha affairs.

Ashoka was not a sangha yet he contributed to Buddhism. Being a normal Buddhism made him more relatable to other Buddhists as most adherents are not monks.

3. Explain the contribution of Ashoka to Buddhism

Ashoka built shrines and monasteries and inscribed Buddhist teachings on rocks and pillars in many places. Ashoka also sent missionaries to countries. After Ashoka converted to Buddhism, he taught and convinced people to love and respect all living things; He insisted on the recognition of the sanctity of all human life. Additionally, Ashoka banned sport hunting & thus protected wildlife. He expanded Buddhism through this as his own son Kunal became a monk & carried Buddhism to Sri Lanka.

4. In 2 paragraphs, analyse the impact of Ashoka on the development of and expression of Buddhism

Ashoka dramatically impacted upon the development and expression of Buddhism through his monasteries, teachings and expansion of Buddhism. Buddhism remained a small splinter group up until about 300 BCE when it began a period of expansion that was helped by the emergence of the Mauryan Empire after 320 BCE. Through his revelation of Buddhism and its principle beliefs, Ashoka has facilitated Buddhism’s expansion throughout India and internationally. Moreover, Ashoka built shrines and monasteries and inscribed Buddhist teachings on rocks and pillars in many places and thus, the Indian government has adopted the famous lion capital from his pillar at Sarnath as official national emblem, thus impacting upon the expression of Buddhism.

Moreover, after Ashoka converted to Buddhism, he taught and convinced people to love and respect all living things; He insisted on the recognition of the sanctity of all human life. Additionally, Ashoka banned sport hunting & thus protected wildlife. His teachings on the sanctity of life therefore assisted individuals to reestablish peace. During Asoka's rule theft declined and science, medicine and technology all flourished. Buddhism received a significant boost of popularity when Ashoka converted to Buddhism. After Asoka’s death in 232 BCE, the people of India decided to commemorate Ashoka by using his personal chakra, which can still be seen today on the Indian flag. Asoka’s chakra is also know as the wheel of the dharma (way) and it symbolizes the 24 virtues in Buddhism. Thus, it can be seen that Ashoka significantly impacted on the development and expression of Buddhism through his monasteries, teachings and expansion of Buddhism.