Maha Shivaratri

Shiva is the foremost deity in the Hindu pantheon and regarded as the destroyer. Maha Shivaratri, or ‘the great night of Shiva’, commemorates the supremacy of Shiva. People refrain from sleeping and instead pray to the great lord. Most dedicated disciples of Lord Shiva celebrate Maha Shivaratri by fasting and chanting the hymns to Tandava, a dance performed by Lord Shiva.

Hindu pilgrims wash in the Ganges during the Maha Shivaratri festival in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh © Tjeerd Kruse / Alamy Stock Photo

