MEANING
• “Great night of Shiva.”
• Each month in the Hindu calendar, a Shivaratri or “Night of Shiva” is observed, which is a festival with an all-night vigil to remember the importance of overcoming ignorance and darkness.
• The Maha Shivaratri or is the most spiritually significant night of shiva that occurs before the arrival of summer.

GREETINGS
• “Happy Maha Shivaratri.”

WHEN
• Maha Shivaratri occurs on the 13th night and 14th day of the month of Phalguna, a month in the Hindu lunar calendar.

COMMON PRACTICES
• During daylight, devotees wake early and take a ritual bath. Then, head to the nearest temple that is dedicated to shiva and make offerings that typically include yogurt, honey, ghee, sugar and water.
• The sacred mantra of Shiva is chanted in homes and temples while incense is burned and lamps are lit.
• Many maintain a fast until the following morning.
• Some stay awake throughout the night.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?
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FOR MORE INFO VISIT:
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Type of Calendar:
Hindu (lunar)