



Bandhani Dandiya

The *Dandiya Raas* dance ('The Sword Dance') is a traditional folk dance which is performed in Goddess Durga's honour. The dance is about a fight between *Goddess Durga* and *Mahishasura*, the mighty demon-king. The sticks used in the dances are the *bandhani dandiya* which represent the sword of Goddess Durga.

The dancers dance to the dhol drum and other percussion instruments such as the dholak and tabla drum. It is a very energetic dance which plays out the fight between goddess and monster with lots of spinning and complicated foot work. The dancers mock-fight each other using the bandhani dandiya.

The women wear traditional dresses decorated with dazzling mirror work and heavy jewellery. The men wear special turbans and jackets.

