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## Krishna and the chocolate factory

'Crazy Mohan's play, "Chocolate Krishna", celebrated a milestone when its 150th show was staged recently

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**ALL FOR A CAUSE (From left) Keshav, cartoonist and artist, Krishnaswami, president, Narada Gana Sabha, V. Vishwanathan, producer, Nityashree Mahadevan, Carnatic vocalist, Anu Hassan, TV personality, 'Crazy' Mohan, Kamal Hassan, Ramesh Rangarajan, director, The Hindu**

Sorry for not making it to the first show," Kamal Hassan had said. "That does not matter. You could come for the 150th," 'Crazy' Mohan responded.

That small exchange was about 'Chocolate Krishna,' Mohan's latest play. The veteran dramatist was apparently confident that his hilarious story of divinity visiting a mortal's house and getting caught up in everyday dilemmas would have no difficulty in reaching the 150th show milestone.

The occasion was celebrated on Sunday morning, and the Narada Gana Sabha hall was indeed packed with an enthusiastic audience. Kamal Hassan was there too. At the 150th show, the veteran actor who along with Crazy Mohan has given such hits as "Aboorva Sahodarargal", "Michael Madana Kamarajan",

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"Pammal K Sambandam", "Tenali" and "Avvai Shanmugi" was full of praise for three decades of unity and team spirit at Crazy Creations.

Sunday's performance, organised by Priya Cultural Academy, regaled the audience with an endless stream of comedy woven around Krishna lore. The script bears the familiar stamp of a 'Crazy' play. It tracks the progress of a lower middle class household with struggling members, belonging to different generations, one of them a chocolate salesman. The introduction of some special effects from a magician's bag of tricks also helps the play stand out.

Ramesh Rangarajan, Director, *The Hindu*, commended Crazy Creations for coming up with another winner in "Chocolate Krishna". The play effortlessly notched up 150 performances in just nine months, he noted. This was particularly noteworthy because of the challenging circumstances faced by the Tamil stage today.

Mr. Rangarajan unveiled a painting titled "Chocolate Krishna" by Keshav, cartoonist, *The Hindu*. The azure blue Krishna appears lost in wonder in the art work, which was inspired by the play. 'Crazy' Mohan spoke of the deep impression that Krishna's stories had made on Keshav, prompting him to put brush to canvas to give form to those divine moments.

Su.Ravi, mentor and friend of 'Crazy' Mohan, presented an inspirational poem on "Chocolate Krishna".

The contribution made by Crazy Creations to social causes was highlighted on the occasion by S. B. Khanthan, director of the play. A significant part of the latest play's gate collections had gone to socially relevant causes including heart surgeries, kidney transplants and leprosy treatments. KRV Ramani, Chairman, Sabari Group of companies was encouraged to team up with Priya Cultural Academy and extend financial assistance to help a cancer patient for surgery.

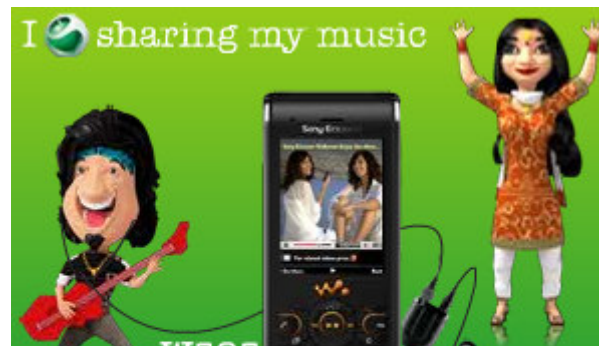
V.Krishnaswami, president, Narada Gana Sabha, felt that the success of "Chocolate Krishna" had given fresh impetus to Tamil theatre.

V.Vishwanathan, the host of the show and Anu Hassan, TV personality felicitated 'Crazy' Mohan and his troupe.

Earlier, Mohan presented his troupe members with a light-hearted personal introduction that matched the humour-filled performance of "Chocolate Krishna". The audience included notable personalities in the field of Carnatic music, literature, film and theatre. The gala performance commenced with a soul-stirring invocation on Lord Krishna by maestro Nityashree Mahadevan.

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