

'Hillary-ous' hype for Sanjaya

She wouldn't say whether she would vote for Sanjaya Malakar as the new 'American Idol'. But for former first lady Hillary Clinton now eyeing the White House it was no problem if that's what the voters want - like her.

Democratic presidential hopeful first responded with a hearty laugh to 'the best question I've been asked in a long time,' during a radio call-in about what the United States can do about the underdog Indian American teenage singer.

Thus gaining time with the usual politicians' ploy, she came up with a statement that must have been music for all the 'desi' and non-desi fans of Sanjaya, who has made to the television show's top 7 defying critics suggesting he lacks any shred of talent.

'Well, you know, people can vote for whomever they want. That's true in my election, and its true on 'American Idol,'" said Hillary who is still top of the polls and in fundraising among Democratic aspirants.

The New York senator was not taking any chances as Sanjaya's stock went up on Fox News' 'Bulls and Bears' and Bookmaker.com, the oldest established online gambling site, offered \$500 for every \$100 bet if everybody's favourite whipping boy does not last at least another week!

With her 'desi' supporters under the banner of 'Indian Americans for Hillary 2008,' planning a fund-raising dinner in June with the likes of Arcelor Mittal chairman Lakshmi Mittal and Hinduja Group's S P Hinduja on the guest list, she can ill afford a 'macaca moment' that cost Republican senator George Allen his seat last November.

Arun Kumar (© IANS / India eNews)