

## **Danish Municipal Elections**

### **What is the issue?**

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- Municipal elections in Denmark recently concluded.
- Elections in Denmark is far different from the elections in India.

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### **What is the significance of Danish municipal elections?**

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- Municipal elections in Denmark are the only public Danish elections in which non-citizens can vote.
- If one permanently settles in Denmark but have not taken a Danish passport, he can still vote in the municipal elections.
- There won't be any aggressive party workers or policemen around polling booths during the elections.
- A far greater number of aspiring municipal politicians in Denmark seem much younger than nation-level politicians.
- Most of the contestants are around their twenties and thirties, there is a significant difference of age between aspirants for municipal positions and those who contest national or State-equivalent elections.
- It makes good sense for an aspiring young person to pass through municipal politics, and, if she distinguishes herself, to be moved on to State and national levels.

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### **What India needs to learn from this municipal election?**

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- In India, there is a difference that signifies a movement up the party-political hierarchy, a gathering of experience and testing of capabilities.

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- Younger candidates, when they appear, tend to pop up right at the top level of State or national politics in India.

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- Indian politics, is not tied as much to experience and performance, but it is tied to other factors such as 'connections and privilege'.

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- The reason why younger candidates seem to pop up at senior political levels in India, rather than at the municipal levels, is an indication of this.

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- In India, people with influence won't need a real political expertise, not have to cultivated any local franchise, and not needed to prove oneself at a smaller scale to get into a top political hierarchy.

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**Source: The Hindu**

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