Danish Municipal Elections

What is the issue?

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- Municipal elections in Denmark recently concluded.
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- 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.
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- If one permanently settles in Denmark but have not taken a Danish passport, he can still vote in the municipal elections.
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- There won’t be any aggressive party workers or policemen around polling booths during the elections.
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- A far greater number of aspiring municipal politicians in Denmark seem much younger than nation-level politicians.
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- 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.
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- 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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