

KARNATAKA

Ashok Soota to invest ₹200 crore in research on ageing, neuro health



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU, APRIL 05, 2021 01:57 IST

UPDATED: APRIL 05, 2021 01:57 IST

SHARE ARTICLE



0



PRINT

A

A

A



Ashok Soota | Photo Credit: BIJOY GHOSH

Launches not-for-profit entity, SKAN; ropes in IISc, NIMHANS, IIT-Roorkee, St. John's Hospital

Tech industry veteran Ashok Soota on Sunday announced the creation of SKAN, a not-for-profit entity exclusively for medical research around ageing and neurological disorders and also made a financial commitment of ₹200 crore to fund the venture.

SKAN will conduct its research activities in-house also through partners. The Centre for Brain Research (CBR) at Indian Institute Science, Bangalore (IISc), will be its strategic partner for neurological research. CBR is currently putting together a consortium to handle the first project on Parkinson's disease, as per a statement.

Of the ₹200 crore, a total of ₹100 crore has been earmarked for partners such as St. John's, Centre for Brain Research (CBR), IIT-Roorkee, NIMHANS, and new partners who are joining in the future while the remaining ₹100 crore would be spent on SKAN's in-house projects.

For neurological research, the plan would be to go deep into select areas like Parkinson's, bipolar, strokes and other cerebrovascular disorders.

Mr. Soota said, "It will take 10 years to build a world-class institution for ageing and neurological research. I am grateful to two eminent leaders who have agreed to take charge as chairpersons for the two divisions in case of exigency to me if line leadership is not ready to take charge. I have had this exigency-based arrangement in every organisation I started, be it MindTree or Happiest Minds."

On the ageing front, the approach would be to go wide into relatively under-researched areas. A large community-based research cohort also would be set up. The proposed Centre for Research in Ageing and Geriatrics (CRAG) at SJGC, to be located on the St John's Hospital campus, would be the strategic partner for SKAN's work around ageing.

For problems related to both ageing and neurological disorders, the philosophy of the research would include searching for kinder, gentler therapies; delaying the onset and slowing down the progression of the disease and providing persons a better quality of life even as they live with the illness, according to SKAN. SKAN is currently on the lookout for talent including CEOs for its Ageing and Neurological divisions.



Home > States > Karnataka

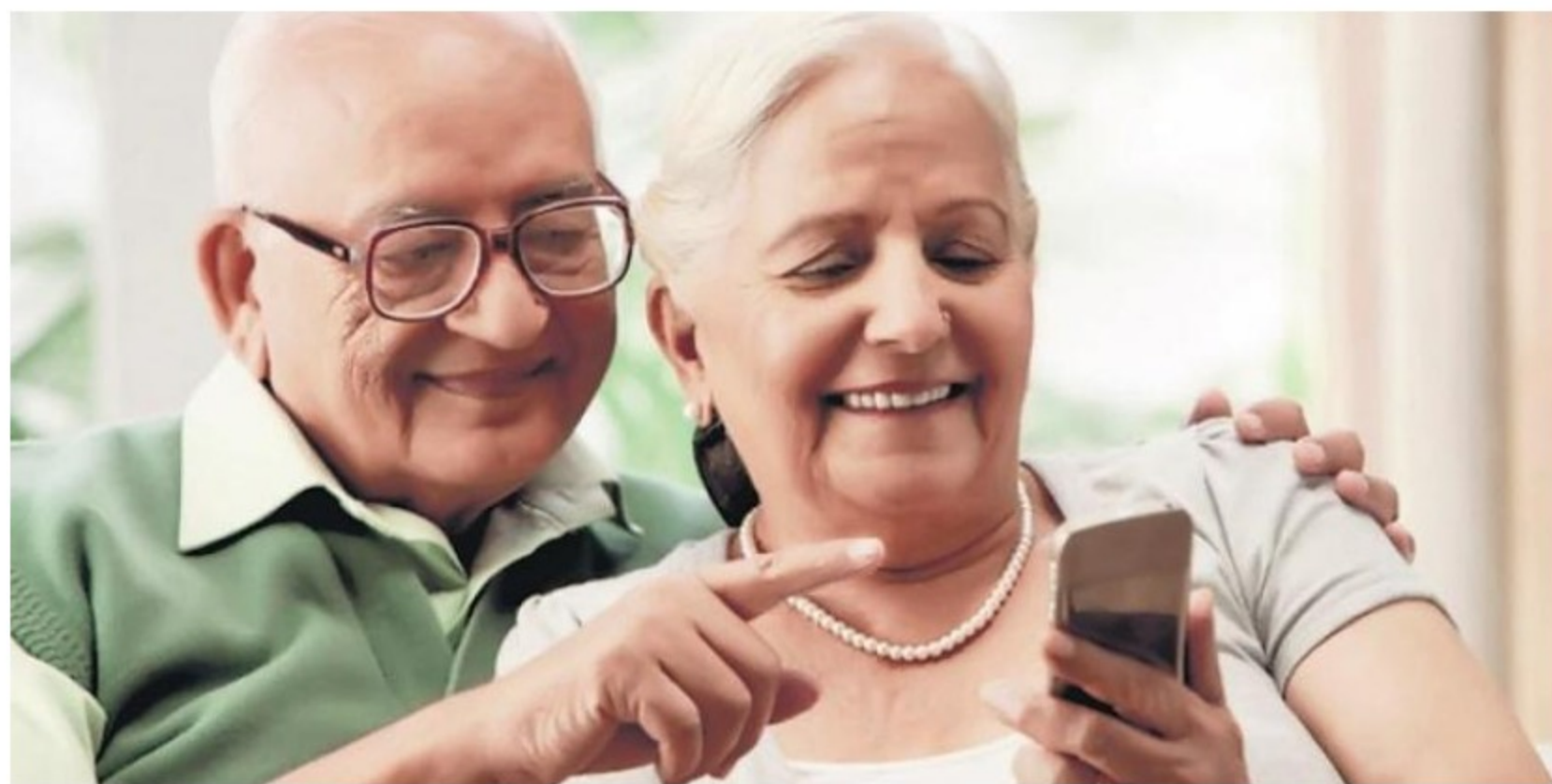
Ashok Soota wants elderly to be 'happiest minds', commits Rs 200 crore

Soota, a newly-minted billionaire after his company went public recently, has committed Rs 200 crore for the projects.



Published: 05th April 2021 05:15 AM | Last Updated: 05th April 2021 05:15 AM

🔒 | A+ A A-



Representational image

By Express News Service

BENGALURU : Founder and executive chairman of Happiest Minds, Ashok Soota, on Sunday launched a not-for-profit, SKAN, to conduct research on neurological and aging issues, partnering with the Indian Institute of Science's (IISc) Centre for Brain Research (CBR) and St John's Geriatric Centre (SJGC).

Soota, a newly-minted billionaire after his company went public recently, has committed Rs 200 crore for the projects. From this, 50 per cent has been earmarked for for the partners, while the rest is investments in SKAN that will include funding direct projects, a statement said.



The objective of the endeavour is to search for kinder, gentler therapies; delaying onset and slowing down the progression of the disease and providing persons a better quality of life even as they live with the illness, according to the statement on Sunday.

The first project will be through CBR on Parkinson's Disease, for which the centre is in the process of setting up a consortium. Neurological research, apart from Parkinson's Disease, will focus on areas like bipolar disorders, strokes and other cerebrovascular

disorders.

The research on ageing will focus on under-researched areas, including the setting up of a large community-based research group. "It is likely to take about a decade to build a world-class institution to conduct research on neurology and ageing," Soota said.

Without disclosing the names, he added that two eminent personalities have agreed to take charge as chairpersons of the two divisions "in case of an exigency to me if line of leadership is not ready to take charge". Currently, SKAN is looking for chief executive officers, as well as talent for the two divisions pertaining to neurological research and research on ageing, the statement added.