Jury picks top 3 in CSR

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“I see partnerships in everything we do,” says Ved Arya, who co-founded Srijan, which stands for Self-Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action, in 1997 and has just started an initiative that supports the entry of trained and educated professionals into the development sector under the aegis of the Buddha Fellowship.

Arya, along with Geeta Dharmarajan, writer, social entrepreneur, educationist and founder of Katha, is the joint winner of the 2018 Business Standard award for social entrepreneur. For both, the desire to break through a system that was failing its people was high, but that did not lead them to plough a lonely furrow. Collaborations and teamwork are critical to the work they do.

S Ramadorai, chairman of Tata Institute of Social Sciences as well as of the jury that chose the winners of the social excellence awards, says it was a tough choice. The jury took a long time before concurring that the passion, dedication and resilience that the two had demonstrated made them jointly worthy of the award.