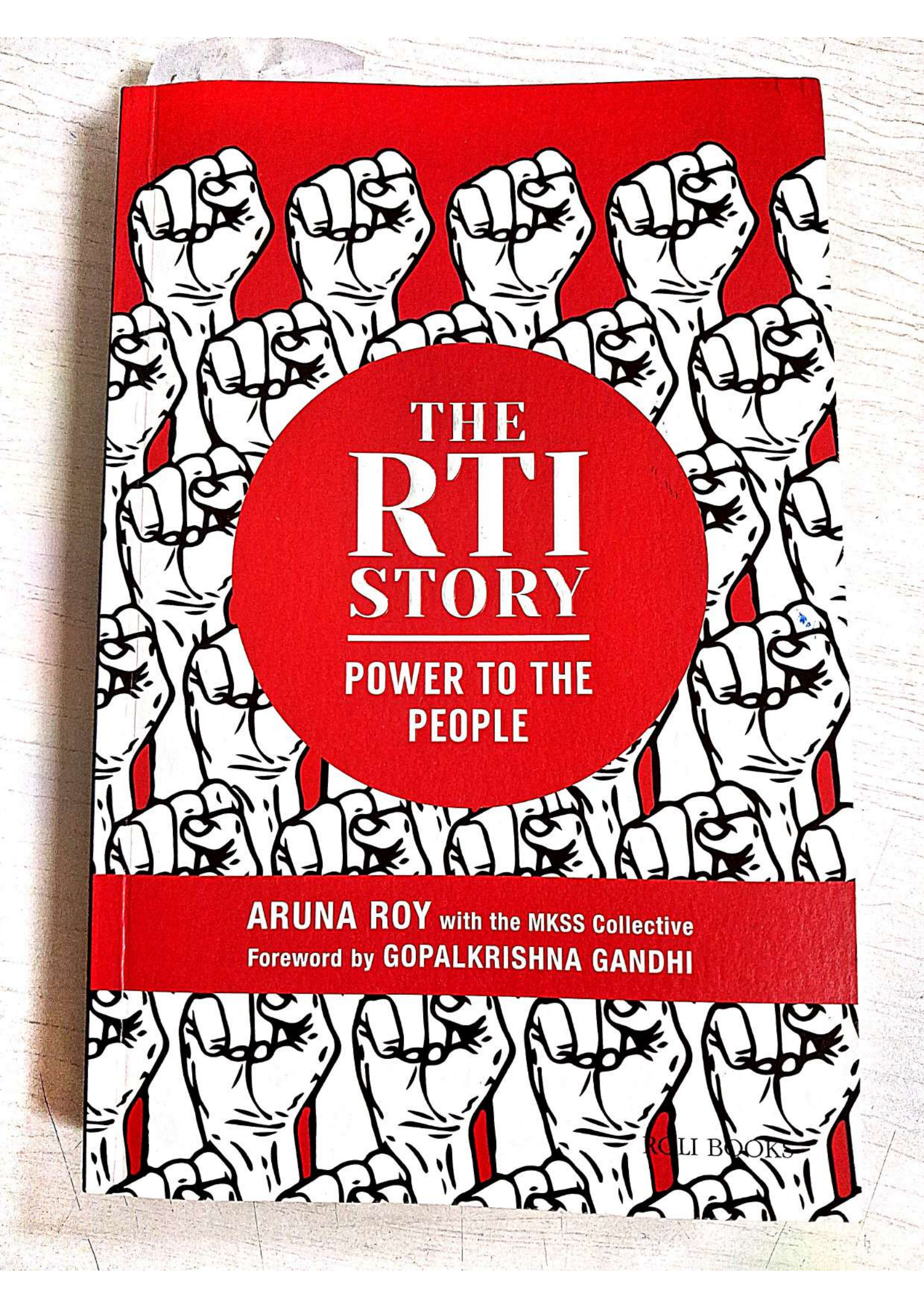




THE RTI STORY

POWER TO THE
PEOPLE

ARUNA ROY with the MKSS Collective
Foreword by **GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI**

ROLI BOOKS

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Aruna Roy
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Foreword
Gopalkrishna Gandhi



LOTUS COLLECTION
ROLI BOOKS

'I have watched with enthusiasm the growth of a people's movement from the streets of Beawar, the State Legislature to the halls of Parliament and beyond. This book, like its story, is by the people and for the people. I see myself as a member of this powerful movement.'

Kuldip Nayar, *Veteran journalist and human rights activist*

'It is a story of ants fighting the elephant. MKSS has organized the ants to make the state concede the right to know. In the name of secrecy the marginalized have been victims of an opaque and power-centric state. But it was the power of grassroots that pushed the parliament to enact the law. As enshrined in the preamble of our Constitution the state is accountable to "we the people". The struggle for transparency, equality and dignity is still on...'

Bezwada Wilson, *Safai Karmachari Andolan, Magsaysay Award winner*

'We have here an account of the birth and evolution of a law that, like no other since the framing of India's constitution, has captured the imagination of India's peoples, cutting across the vast diversities and contradictions that constitute this nation. This phenomenon is recounted by raconteurs who were pivotal to the multitude of inputs and demands that made this possible... essential reading not only for students of India's constitutional evolution but for all aspirants to making democracy real for the citizens of this troubled world.'

Wajahat Habibullah, *Former CIC, Central Information Commission*

'Over the years, the work of MKSS has been invaluable in promoting justice and equity for the entire community of workers and peasants in our country. This book makes for fascinating reading. It tells the story of its evolution from the early beginnings to the present day. The immediacy of experience that active participants bring to the narrative is extremely relevant and persuasive.'

Shyam Benegal, *Acclaimed film-maker and socially committed citizen*

'The RTI is one of the most significant acts of legislation in recent years. If properly implemented, it can be used to provide the urban and rural poor their basic necessities of life and ensure some social justice.'

Romila Thapar, *Famous historian and professor emeritus, JNU*

