Goods and Services Tax introduced in India on July 1, 2017 is an important reform. However, being the result of many compromises among states and interest groups, few people claim that the current form cannot be made better. The purpose of this panel is to conceptualize how the next edition of the GST can be made better. For this purpose, the panel has invited economists, lawyers, public servants and accountants to share their vision of:

(1) A general outline of the next edition of the GST;

(2) How the new edition should be expected to be “better” than the first edition;

(3) What research on the data gathered from the current GST may help guide the next design; and

(4) What are the political, legal, technical, and other steps that may facilitate this process?

It is important to keep the focus of the panel presentations and discussion on the future steps, without dwelling on the past history. Each panelist will be requested to present his/her remarks within 15 minutes, leaving one hour for open discussion and debate.

Gestation period for system re-design and policy changes is long. The year of introduction of GST is not too early to start working on the next edition. I am sure Apple is working not only on iPhone 8 to be introduced in 2017 but also on the subsequent versions already.

Most of the audience will consist of scholars of accounting and public finance interested in conduct research to help build a more efficient economy in India.