

# Spring Pitch Fest 2026

## The Art of Entrepreneurship in the Age of AI



**April 17<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**VCC Downtown Campus Room # 420 - 250 W Pender Street Vancouver**

**2:00 - 2:30 pm**

### **Registration & Networking**

Participant registration and networking

**2:30 - 2:40 pm**

### **Welcome Address**

Praveen Varshney, Vik Khanna and Pankaj Bagga

**2:40 - 3:15 pm**

### **Panel Discussion - Entrepreneurship in the Age of AI**

Kesav Dama, P K Gulati, Prashant Mishra, Yashraj Akashi

**3:15 - 4:15 pm**

### **Pitch Showcase - Part I**

3- minute presentation + 2- minute Q&A

**4:15 - 4:30 pm**

### **Networking**

Accredited Investor - Founder Networking

**4:30 - 5:30 pm**

### **Pitch Showcase - Part II**

3- minute presentation + 2- minute Q&A

**5:30 - 5:40 pm**

### **Networking**

Open networking

**5:40 - 6:00 pm**

### **Awards & Closing Remarks**

Pitch competition results



**08:00 – 09:00 AM****Registration & Networking over Coffee**

Participant registration, coffee & networking.

**09:00 - 09:15 am****Welcome Address**

Praveen Varshney, Vik Khanna & Pankaj Bagga

**09:15 - 09:30 am****Keynote by Dr. Arun Garg**

Culturally Intelligent Care: Why it matters more than ever?

**09:30 - 9:50 am****Keynote by Almas Jiwani**

The Funding Gap: Why women build companies but don't get Capital?

**9:50 - 10:20 am****Launching Startup Angel Bazaar by Kesav Dama**

Presenting Sponsor spotlight with Kesav Dama. A first look at the platform redefining how founders connect with angel investors

**10:20 - 10:50 am****Swirepay: A SAB success story by Adithya Murali**

A look at how one founder leveraged SAB to turn an idea into a thriving fintech venture

**10:50 - 11:20 am****Networking**

Coffee and networking break

**11:20 - 11:30 am****TiE Vancouver: Programs, People & Pathways**

An introduction to the TiE Vancouver Programs

**11:30 - 11:50 am****Fireside Chat with P K Gulati**

The Art of Entrepreneurship in the Age of AI

**11:50 am - 12:10 pm****Fireside Chat with Megha Desai**

From Startups to Social Impact: rethinking scale, trust & power

**12:10 pm - 12:30 pm****Fireside Chat with Mike Volker**

The Market in Motion - Canadian Startup Landscape. A Conversation with Mike Volker & Praveen Varshney

**12:30 pm - 1:00 pm****Lunch: Break Bread Build Bonds**

Networking and lunch



1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**Pitch Showcase by Beaver's Den Entrepreneurs**

3:00 pm - 3:25pm

**Honouring the Legacy: In conversation with Sharad Khare**  
Mike Volker and Praveen Varshney in Conversation with Sharad Khare

3:25 pm - 3:30 pm

**A Celebration of Excellence: The TiE Vancouver Awards**  
Honouring the legends

3:30 pm - 3:40 pm

**Coffee & Deal Flow**  
Coffee and networking break

3:40 pm - 4:00 pm

**Keynote by Kesav Dama**  
A Founder's Reflection: Lessons, Life & Legacy

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

**Panel Discussion - Beyond the Pilot: Operationalizing AI**  
Nandini Maheshwari, Prashant Mishra and Yashraj Akashi  
From AI experiments to measurable outcomes - and what founders can learn from them.

4:30 pm - 4:40 pm

**Awards**  
Vik Khanna President TiE Vancouver

4:40 pm - 4:45 pm

**Closing Remarks**  
Vik Khanna President TiE Vancouver

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Exhibition Showcase**  
A Curated Startup Exhibition

