

MONEY TALK



Prakash Gurbaxani is the founder and CEO of **QVC Realty** (www.qvcrealty.com), India's first venture-funded Real Estate Development Company. Prakash has over 20 years of experience in a wide variety of industries, including real estate, construction, BPO and technology.

When did you start investing: Did you start at an early age?

I began to invest when I first started working around the age of 24.

What asset did you acquire first – home, stocks or was it other investments?

My earliest investments were in mutual funds and real estate.

What asset allocation did you start with and how has it changed over the years?

I started with equities (less than 10 per cent); real estate (40 per cent); cash/fixed income (50 per cent). Now, it is about one-third each across equities, real estate and cash/fixed income.

Which was the first stock you picked, at what age and did you make money on it – any learning from that experience?

My first equity investment was in an equity mutual fund.

After I bought the fund, the market corrected, I got cold feet and sold to cut my loss. That experience made me stay away from equities for a while.

What is your return expectation?

On an average, 15 per cent across various investments.

Some experts believe that young investors can afford a 70-80 per cent exposure to equity. Do you share that view?

Yes, provided the investor has the ability and discipline to stay invested long term.

Any books on investing that have impressed you?

I have bought several books over the years; the best was *One up on Wall Street* by Peter Lynch, the legendary fund manager of Fidelity's Magellan Fund,

Finally, your advice on three things that budding youngsters should/should not do when they start off.

Do not react to 'hot tips'.

Have a long-term view.

Do not borrow money to invest in stocks.