

Info Edge

Estimate change
TP change
Rating change



Bloomberg	INFOE IN
Equity Shares (m)	129
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	576 / 7
52-Week Range (INR)	4984 / 3310
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	1/8/-9
12M Avg Val (INR M)	1484

Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Y/E Mar	2023	2024E	2025E
Sales	21.6	23.3	25.9
EBITDA	7.8	8.6	9.7
Adj. PAT	7.1	7.5	8.5
Reported PAT	4.1	7.5	8.5
Adj. EPS	54.6	58.2	65.6
EPS (INR)	31.8	58.2	65.6
EPS Gr. (%)	(6.7)	83.1	12.7
BV/Sh. (INR)	849.3	907.9	974.0
Ratios			
RoE (%)	4.9	6.2	13.2
RoCE (%)	5.3	6.3	6.7
Payout (%)	50.0	50.0	50.0
Valuations			
P/E (x)	140.2	76.6	67.9
P/BV (x)	5.3	4.9	4.6

Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Jun-23	Mar-23	Jun-22
Promoter	38.1	38.1	38.1
DII	18.2	17.4	16.4
FII	31.7	31.9	32.9
Others	12.1	12.7	12.6

FII Includes depository receipts

CMP: INR4,459 TP: INR4,200 (-6%) Neutral

Naukri performance to drag FY24 growth

Limited scope for margin improvement; reiterate Neutral on valuations

- Info Edge (INFOE) delivered a weaker-than-expected revenue growth in 1QFY24, with standalone revenue rising 15% YoY (20.6% expected). EBITDA margin was better than expected at 38.8%, down 30bp QoQ (120bp beat). Overall Billings were muted and remained flat YoY at INR 5.2b, largely on account of lower billings in Recruitment solutions business (down 4.2% YoY).
- The management continues to see a slowdown in IT hiring activity, which remains a key risk, given its significantly high revenue contribution to the Naukri business. Though Non-IT has been doing well for the past couple of quarters, it has started witnessing a slowdown with delayed renewals, which would add to the drag on the billings. The management was surprised by the dip in hiring activity in July'23. While we see recovery in IT hiring in FY25, we expect Naukri billings to decline in FY24 on a high base, which will result in single-digit growth for FY24 and FY25.
- 99acres posted robust revenue growth in 1QFY24. The demand is projected to remain strong due to low inventory levels, a surge in demand for larger homes, higher digital adoption rates, and a shift in spending from offline to online platforms. The decrease in realization can be attributed to the significant influx of new users added in 1QFY24. The marketing spends, though reducing, are likely to result in continued losses for 99acres over the next few years, before it turns profitable.
- INFOE has delivered a sharp margin improvement over the last few quarters with lower dependency on advertisement and operating leverage. With slower growth in FY24 and FY25, we see limited upside on margins. We expect FY24/FY25 EBITDA margin at 37.1/37.4%.
- We forecast standalone revenue and APAT to clock a 10% CAGR each over FY23-25, driven by the Naukri business.
- We continue to see a healthy long-term growth opportunity in its operating entities. With margins improving, we expect scale benefits over the next few years. However, the current valuations fairly price in its growth outlook. We expect share price to remain under pressure in the near term due to weak 1QFY24 performance.
- We value the company's operating entities using DCF valuation. Our SoTP-based valuation indicates a TP of INR4,200. We reiterate our Neutral stance on the stock.

Miss on revenue; PAT in line on better margins and higher 'other income'

- Standalone revenue stood at INR5.84b, up 15% YoY, below our estimate of 20.6%.
- Its 1Q billings at ~INR5.2b (flat YoY) were slower due to the impact from IT hiring. Recruitment Solutions billings was down 4.2% YoY (vs. our est. of +7% YoY), 99acres grew 20.1% YoY (vs. +35% est.), and for other segments rose 1.9% YoY.

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■ EBITDA margin (38.8%) was down 30bp QoQ, vs. our estimate of 37.6% (120bp beat).

- Margin was aided by lower advertisement spend (down 90bp QoQ).
- Naukri's EBITDA margin was down 300bp QoQ at 59% vs. our estimate of 60%, while 99acres' EBITDA loss percentage widened 190bp QoQ to 27.2%.
- Adj. PAT was up 25% YoY to INR1.99b (in line) despite lower revenue on margin beat and higher 'other income'.

Highlights from the management commentary

- Recruitment: The caution in hiring for IT Services continues and the hiring is expected to remain weak, given that IT companies have seen a slowdown in revenues and cut backs in discretionary spending, while they have a larger bench. The company is experiencing delays in renewals by clients. Non-IT demand slowed down in Jul'23. If there is an increase in infrastructure spending, promising opportunities can emerge in sectors such as cement, metals, oil and gas, and industrials. While currently a smaller segment for Naukri, the manufacturing sector has the potential to experience substantial growth in the next 5-7 years if its activity gains momentum.
- Real Estate: The real estate market remains strong with low inventory levels, more demand, bigger developers, RERA enforcement, higher income levels, more demand for bigger homes, and reasonable interest rates. Developers, builders, and brokers are becoming savvy to use online platforms. Ad spends are growing and there is a shift toward online spends. There was a strong growth in the number of enquiries and traffic despite heightened competition. The company also took some price hikes. Strong topline growth along with controlled cost helped to reduce burn in 99 Acers.

Valuations and view

- Though we see good recovery for IT services demand in FY25, the near-term growth in Recruitment is expected to be adversely impacted by lower IT demand, resulting in slow overall growth for INFOE.
- With the management investing prudently, some of its current investments should scale up over the medium-to-long term, thereby contributing to the group's valuation.
- We individually value INFOE's group entities using a DCF-based valuation. Our SoTP-based TP stands at INR4,200. We reiterate our Neutral stance on the stock.

Standalone quarterly perform Y/E March		FY2	23			FY2	24		FY23	FY24E	FY24	Var.
,	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2QE	3QE	4QE			1QE	(%/bp)
Revenues	5,077	5,318	5,552	5,640	5,843	5,797	5,801	5,850	21,586	23,290	6,121	-4.5
YoY (%)	58.8	51.2	33.4	23.8	15.1	9.0	4.5	3.7	39.9	7.9	20.6	-550bp
Salary costs	2,244	2,259	2,262	2,323	2,464	2,483	2,473	2,461	9,087	9,881	2,567	-4.0
Ad and Promotion costs	876	831	746	703	680	812	812	848	3,155	3,152	826	-17.7
Other Expenses	326	389	376	411	432	400	394	398	1,502	1,625	428	0.9
EBITDA	1,631	1,840	2,168	2,203	2,266	2,102	2,122	2,143	7,842	8,633	2,299	-1.4
EBITDA Margin (%)	32.1	34.6	39.1	39.1	38.8	36.3	36.6	36.6	36.3	37.1	37.6	120bp
Depreciation	99	105	115	129	153	116	116	117	447	502	122	25.3
EBIT Margin (%)	30.2	32.6	37.0	36.8	36.2	34.3	34.6	34.6	34.3	34.9	35.6	60bp
Other Income	419	499	396	437	578	435	435	439	1,751	1,886	459	25.9
-PBT bef. Extra-ordinary	1,942	2,225	2,440	2,500	2,667	2,410	2,429	2,453	9,107	9,958	2,624	1.7
Provision for Tax	457	544	523	524	668	578	583	589	2,047	2,418	630	6.1
ETR (%)	23.6	24.4	21.4	20.9	25.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	22.5	24.3	24.0	100bp
PAT bef. Extra-ordinary	1,484	1,681	1,917	1,977	1,999	1,831	1,846	1,864	7,059	7,541	1,994	0.3
EOI	0	0	-2,760	-187	0	0	0	0	-2,947	0	0	
Reported PAT	1,484	1,681	-843	1,789	1,999	1,831	1,846	1,864	4,112	7,541	1,994	0.3
QoQ (%)	23.0	13.3	NM	NM	11.7	-8.4	0.8	1.0			11.4	
YoY (%)	47.0	NM	NM	48.3	34.7	8.9	NM	4.2	NM	83.4	34.3	
EPS (INR)	11.5	13.1	14.9	13.8	15.5	14.2	14.3	14.4	31.8	58.2	15.5	0.2

Key performance indicators

Y/E March		FY23	FY24E				FY23		
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2QE	3QE	4QE	
Operating metrics									
Headcount	5,107	5,282	5,336	5,311	5,568				5,311
Naukri – Revenue per unique customer	51019	55627	59403	56336	56279				129735
99acres – Listings (k)	1,109	1,052	1,077	1,191	1,163				4,526
Revenue (YoY %)									
Recruitment	74%	63%	40%	27%	15%				48%
99acres	35%	44%	24%	23%	25%				31%



Highlights from the management commentary

Recruitment

- The caution in hiring for IT Services continues and the hiring is expected to remain weak given that IT companies have witnessed a slowdown in revenues and cut backs in discretionary spending, while they have a larger bench.
- The management is hopeful of a recovery in IT hiring. Further, it identifies opportunities for IT within GCCs, although this segment continues to constitute a smaller portion of the overall business.
- The demand for the Non-IT segment continues to remain good for BFSI, healthcare, manufacturing, and infrastructure.
- The company is experiencing delays in renewals by clients. Non-IT demand slowed down in Jul'23.
- If the economy grows at a healthy rate (6-7%), the company is confident of growing at 20%+ levels.
- Due to the skill demands, significant personnel mobility is anticipated in the field of Generative AI. This movement could be advantageous for the company, provided it does not adversely impact the traditional IT services business of companies.

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■ It currently operates only in 40-45 cities and plans to expand its offerings to smaller cities and expand to 60-70 cities in the next two years. This can generate a healthy contribution in the long term.

- The company will continue to invest in Job Hai for longer-term opportunities and to ensure that the market is not open to competitors.
- If there is an increase in infrastructure spending, promising opportunities can emerge in sectors such as cement, metals, oil and gas, and industrials. While currently a smaller segment for Naukri, the manufacturing sector has the potential to experience substantial growth in the next 5-7 years if its activity gains momentum.

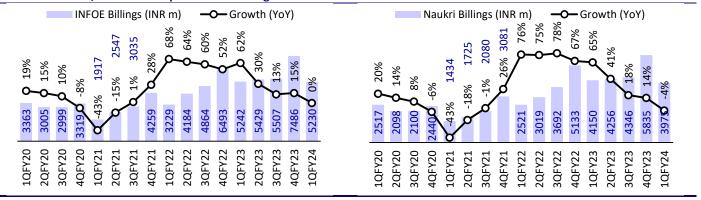
Real Estate

- The real estate market remains strong with low inventory levels, more demand, bigger developers, RERA enforcement, higher income levels, more demand for bigger homes, and reasonable interest rates.
- Developers, builders, and brokers are becoming savvy to using online platforms.
 Ad spends are growing and there is shift to online spends.
- There was a strong growth in the number of enquiries and traffic despite heightened competition. The company also took some price hikes.
- Strong topline growth along with controlled cost helped to reduce burn in 99
 Acers.
- The moderation in realization was due to high user additions in 1Q. New users have lower monetization as they do not opt for longer duration and high-end products upfront. The realization improves with upselling to these customers.

Other highlights

- INFOE experienced delays in renewal processes for its Shiksha business. Despite these delays, the company remains committed to making long-term investments in the Shiksha business.
- There was a significant reduction in ad spends in Jeevansathi. It recorded good engagement and high traffic as its chat feature became free. Competitive intensity remained high and competitors continued to spend aggressively.
- It is constantly working on finding ways to monetize improved traffic on the Jeevansathi platform.

Exhibit 1: Overall/Recruitment post muted billings



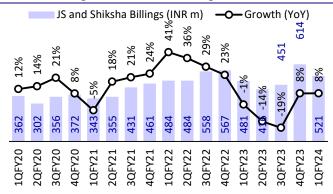
Source: Company, MOFSL

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Exhibit 2: 99acres billings were up 20% YoY

1QFY20 484 18% 2QFY20 605 21% 66 3QFY20 543 11% 66 4QFY20 -24% 507 80 1QFY21 -71% 140 140 1QFY21 -23% 467 80 1QFY21 717 41% 10 1QFY22 224 60% 0 2QFY23 614 17% 46% 0 3QFY22 614 17% 0 0 4QFY23 757 11% 0 0 4QFY23 710 16% 0 0 4QFY23 710 16% 0 0 4QFY24 734 20% 0 0 0

Exhibit 3: Billings from JS and Shiksha grew 8% YoY



Source: MOFSL, Company Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 4: SoTP-based TP at INR4,200

Segment	Methodology Methodology description ★ Estimate 10% revenue CAGR and 10% EBIT CAGR over FY23-34. Our WACC/terminal growth estimate stands at 11.5%/6%, respectively		Valuation toward INFOE (INR b)	Contribution (INR per share)	
Naukri			262	2,025	
99acres.com	DCF	*	Estimate 18% revenue CAGR over FY23-34. Our WACC/terminal growth estimate stands at 12%/7%, respectively	30	233
Zomato.com	Market valuation	*	As per our DCF based Target price of INR 110	145	1,117
Policybazaar.com	Market valuation	*	Factoring in current market valuation	57	438
Jeevansathi.com and other	Multiples	*	7x FY24E EV/sales	16	121
Other investee companies				11	85
Cash on the books				23	178
Total (Rounded)					4,200

Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 5: Revisions to our estimates

	Revised estimate		Earlier e	estimate	Change (%/bp)	
Standalone business	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E
Revenue (INR m)	23.3	25.9	25.0	28.8	-6.7	-10.0
YoY (%)	7.9	11.2	15.6	15.3	-770bp	-410bp
EBITDA (%)	37.1	37.4	36.5	37.1	60bp	30bp
EBIT (%)	34.9	35.4	34.5	35.1	40bp	30bp
EPS (INR)	58.2	65.6	61.2	72.5	-4.8	-9.4

Source: MOFSL, Company

Valuation and view

- Though we see good recovery for IT services demand in FY25, the near-term growth in Recruitment is expected to be adversely impacted by lower IT demand, resulting in slow overall growth for INFOE.
- With the management investing prudently, some of its current investments should scale up over the medium-to-long term, thereby contributing to the group's valuation.
- We individually value INFOE's group entities using a DCF-based valuation. Our SoTP-based TP stands at INR4,200. We reiterate our Neutral rating on the stock.

Financials and valuations

Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Sales	9,155	10,983	12,727	11,091	15,430	21,586	23,290	25,910
Change (%)	14.1	20.0	15.9	-12.9	39.1	39.9	7.9	11.2
Employee expense	3,931	4,586	5,396	5,528	7,030	9,087	9,881	10,970
Advertising cost	1,164	1,757	2,044	1,819	2,849	3,155	3,152	3,498
Other expense	1,088	1,226	1,260	913	1,003	1,502	1,625	1,762
EBITDA	2,973	3,413	4,028	2,831	4,549	7,842	8,633	9,680
As a percentage of Net Sales	32.5	31.1	31.6	25.5	29.5	36.3	37.1	37.4
Depreciation	215	204	414	438	398	447	502	518
Interest	1	1	67	57	46	39	59	52
Other Income	971	1,112	876	1,188	1,699	1,751	1,886	2,073
РВТ	3,728	4,320	4,423	3,524	5,804	9,107	9,958	11,183
Tax	991	1,169	1,133	753	1,387	2,047	2,418	2,684
Rate (%)	26.6	27.1	25.6	21.4	23.9	22.5	24.3	24.0
Adjusted PAT	2,737	3,151	3,290	2,771	4,417	7,059	7,541	8,499
Extraordinary Items	-913	-334	-1,233	-32	84,720	-2,947	0	0
Reported PAT	1,824	2,817	2,057	2,739	89,137	4,112	7,541	8,499
Change (%)	-10.8	54.5	-27.0	33.2	NM	NM	83.4	12.7
Balance Sheet Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Share Capital	1,216	1,220	1,223	1,285	1,287	1,290	1,290	1,290
Reserves	19,859	22,019	23,094	44,357	1,38,434	1,07,975	1,15,515	1,24,014
Net Worth	21,074	23,239	24,317	45,642	1,39,721	1,09,265	1,16,805	1,25,304
Loans	44.0	46.0	568.7	449.1	11,115.9	7,086.4	7,086.4	7,086.4
Capital Employed	21,118	23,285	24,885	46,091	1,50,837	1,16,351	1,23,892	1,32,391
Gross Block	1,866	2,109	3,279	3,462	3,788	4,108	4,428	4,748
Less: Depreciation	1,337	1,540	1,954	2,391	2,796	3,243	3,725	4,221
Net Block	529	569	1,325	1,072	992	865	703	527
CWIP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Investments	10,720	12,857	16,404	21,694	1,29,751	96,145	99,145	1,09,145
Curr. Assets	15,028	15,984	13,381	30,293	31,032	31,287	41,296	59,004
Current Investments	11,456	3,400	2,554	0	4,409	7,547	8,547	11,547
Debtors	44	60	70	54	79	90	134	235
Cash	1,458	1,052	4,275	6,351	1,323	2,242	-6,051	-6,815
Loans and Advances	0	0	0	0	0	230	0	0
Other Current Assets	2,070	11,472	6,482	23,888	25,220	21,178	38,666	54,037
Current Liab. and Prov.	5,159	6,125	6,225	6,968	10,854	12,791	17,252	36,285
Current Liabilities	4,703	5,628	5,676	6,306	10,061	11,947	16,408	35,441
Provisions	456	496	549	662	793	844	844	844
Net Current Assets	9,869	9,860	7,156	23,325	20,178	18,496	24,044	22,719
Application of Funds	21,118	23,285	24,885	46,091	1,50,921	1,15,506	1,23,892	1,32,391

Financials and valuations

Ratios								
Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Basic (INR)								
EPS	14.9	22.9	16.7	21.5	34.1	31.8	58.2	65.6
Cash EPS	24.1	27.3	30.1	25.2	37.2	58.1	62.1	69.6
Book Value	173.4	190.8	199.4	361.6	1,086.0	849.3	907.9	974.0
DPS	5.5	6.0	6.0	8.0	21.0	15.9	29.1	32.8
Payout (%)	37.0	26.2	35.9	37.7	61.6	50.0	50.0	50.0
Valuation (x)								
P/E	299.9	194.3	266.9	207.0	130.8	140.2	76.6	67.9
Cash P/E	185.3	163.1	148.2	176.7	120.0	76.8	71.8	64.0
EV/EBITDA	193.9	169.0	142.5	202.0	129.2	74.3	68.4	61.1
EV/Sales	63.0	52.5	45.1	51.6	38.1	27.0	25.4	22.8
Price/Book Value	25.7	23.4	22.4	12.3	4.1	5.3	4.9	4.6
Dividend Yield (%)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.7
Profitability Ratios (%)								
RoE	13.4	14.2	13.8	7.8	4.8	4.9	6.2	13.2
RoCE	13.4	14.2	13.9	7.9	4.5	5.3	6.3	6.7
RoIC	-91.1	135.3	70.5	18.8	18.9	44.5	37.7	34.2
Turnover Ratios								
Debtors (Days)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	17.3	19.3	9.6	10.4	15.6	24.9	33.1	49.2

Cash Flow Statement								(INR m)
Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
CF from Operations	1,901	2,097	1,735	2,092	3,427	6,187	9,810	8,224
Cash for Working Capital	1,166	860	752	756	3,820	1,688	-12,841	3,561
Net Operating CF	3,067	2,956	2,487	2,848	7,247	7,875	-3,030	11,784
Net Purchase of FA	-4,158	-2,276	-9,039	-391	-8,523	-10,880	-320	-320
Free Cash Flow	-1,091	680	-6,552	2,456	-1,276	-3,004	-3,350	11,464
Net Purchase of Invest.	-7,973	8,718	5,245	-18,438	-2,016	5,413	-1,114	-7,927
Net Cash from Invest.	-12,132	6,442	-3,794	-18,829	-10,539	-5,467	-1,434	-8,247
Proceeds from Equity	48	27	3	18,292	2	3	0	0
Proceeds from LTB/STB	-1	0	-204	-233	-186	-213	-59	-52
Dividend Payments	-803	-808	-1,176	0	-2,058	-1,932	-3,770	-4,250
Cash Flow from Fin.	-757	-781	-1,377	18,059	-2,242	-2,141	-3,829	-4,301
Net Cash Flow	-9,822	8,618	-2,684	2,077	-5,534	267	-8,293	-764
Opening Cash Bal.	11,280	1,458	1,053	4,275	6,351	1,323	2,242	-6,051
Add: Net Cash	-9,822	-405	3,222	2,076	-5,028	919	-8,293	-764
Closing Cash Bal.	1,458	1,053	4,275	6,351	1,323	2,242	-6,051	-6,815

Investment in securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing

$N\ O\ T\ E\ S$

Explanation of Investment Rating						
Investment Rating	Expected return (over 12-month)					
BUY	>=15%					
SELL	<-10%					
NEUTRAL	< - 10 % to 15%					
UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change					
NOT RATED	We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain from assigning recommendation					

*In case the recommendation given by the Research Analyst is inconsistent with the investment rating legend for a continuous period of 30 days, the Research Analyst shall be within following 30 days take appropriate measures to make the recommendation consistent with the investment rating legend.

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