

Info Edge

Estimate change TP change Rating change

Bloomberg	INFOE IN
Equity Shares (m)	104
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	542.4 / 6.6
52-Week Range (INR)	4624 / 3310
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	11/6/4
12M Avg Val (INR M)	1541

Financials & Valuations (INR b)

	•		
Y/E Mar	2023	2024E	2025E
Sales	21.6	25.0	28.8
EBITDA	7.8	9.1	10.7
Adj. PAT	7.1	7.9	9.4
Reported PAT	4.1	7.9	9.4
Adj. EPS (INR)	54.6	61.2	72.5
Reported EPS (INR)	31.8	61.2	72.5
EPS Gr. (%)	(6.7)	92.4	18.4
BV/Sh. (INR)	849.3	910.9	983.8
Ratios			
RoE (%)	4.9	6.2	13.1
RoCE (%)	5.3	6.6	7.3
Payout (%)	50.0	50.0	50.0
Valuations			
P/E (x)	132.0	68.6	57.9
P/BV (x)	4.9	4.6	4.3

Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Mar-23	Dec-22	Mar-22
Promoter	38.1	38.1	38.2
DII	17.4	16.8	15.7
FII	31.9	32.5	34.1
Others	12.7	12.7	12.1

FII Includes depository receipts

CMP: INR4,199 TP: INR4,010 (-4%) Neutral

Non-IT to partially offset weak IT performance in 1HFY24

Strong margin profile to sustain; maintain Neutral on valuations

- Info Edge (INFOE) delivered a healthy revenue growth in 4QFY23, with standalone revenue rising 24% YoY (in line) fueled by 27% YoY growth in the Recruitment vertical. EBITDA margin was flat QoQ at 39.1% (strong 240bp beat). Billings were healthy (up 15.3% YoY to INR7.5b) and grew ahead of our estimate, despite a slowdown in IT hiring during the quarter.
- Management sees clear sign of a slowdown in IT hiring that remains a key risk, given its significantly high revenue contribution from the Naukri business. However, INFOE is hopeful of a strong comeback in IT hiring once things improve in 2HFY24. Conversely, Non-IT hiring has picked up well and should offset some of the impact from slowdown in IT hiring. INFOE should report healthy growth in FY24 with strong demand in non-IT along with pick-up in IT in 2HFY24. We expect it to deliver 15% revenue CAGR over FY23-25.
- 99acres posted a strong 4QFY23; demand is likely to remain strong with all-time low inventory, new launches and good demand for new homes. Aided by improvements made on the platform, INFOE has managed to increase traffic and enquiries while reducing marketing expenses at the same time. The marketing spends, though, remained elevated and 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 (EBITDA margin up 11pp YoY) with lower dependency on advertisement and operating leverage. We expect FY24/FY25 EBITDA margin at 36.5/37.1%.
- We forecast standalone revenue and APAT to clock 15% 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 value the company's operating entities using DCF valuation. Our SoTPbased valuation indicates a TP of INR4,010. Reiterate Neutral.

In-line revenue and continued strong margin performance

- Standalone revenue stood at INR5.64b, +23.8% YoY (in-line) in 4QFY23. For FY23, INFOE's revenue/EBITDA/Adj. PAT grew 40%/72%/60% YoY.
- Its 4Q billings at ~INR7.5b (+15.3% YoY) were slower due to the impact from IT hiring. Recruitment Solutions rose 13.7% YoY (v/s our est. of +3% YoY), 99acres grew 30.8% YoY (v/s +9% est.), and Shiksha rose 42.4% YoY.
- EBITDA margin at 39.1% was flat QoQ v/s our est. of 36.7% (240bp beat).
- Margin was aided by lower advertisement spends (-90bp QoQ) in 4QFY23.
- Naukri's EBITDA margin was slightly better at 62% (-90bp QoQ) v/s 61.5% est.,
 while 99acres' EBITDA loss percentage narrowed sharply by 650bp QoQ.
- Adj. PAT was at INR1.98b (v/s est. of 1.8b), +64 YoY. The Board announced a dividend of INR9/share.

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Highlights from the management commentary

- Recruitment: The caution in hiring for IT Services continues and the slowdown is expected to continue for the next few months. Management is hopeful of a recovery in IT hiring in 2HFY24. The demand for the Non-IT segment continues to remain robust. There is strong demand in BFSI, retail, construction, real estate, and travel and hospitality domains while consumer durables, FMCG, healthcare and education have seen some growth moderation. INFOE is confident of sustaining current margins if the billings grow at least by 14-15%.
- Real Estate: There was a broad based volume-driven growth across new homes, resale, commercial properties, etc. The real estate market remains stable with inventories at an all-time low, new launches and good demand for new homes. There was a strong growth in number of enquiries and traffic aided by the improvements made on the platform, despite cuts in marketing spends and heightened competition.

Valuations and view

- Though near-term growth in Recruitment is expected to be adversely impacted by lower IT demand, good medium-term growth in Recruitment should help the company deliver 15% revenue CAGR over FY23-25.
- 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 INR4,010. We reiterate our Neutral rating.

Standalone quarterly performance (INI									(INR m)			
Y/E March		FY2	2			FY	23		FY22	FY23	FY23E	Var.
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q			4QE	(%/bp)
Revenues	3,197	3,517	4,161	4,555	5,077	5,318	5,552	5,640	15,430	21,586	5,589	0.9
YoY (%)	14.1	37.3	52.8	51.6	58.8	51.2	33.4	23.8	39.1	39.9	22.7	110bp
Salary costs	1,518	1,605	1,868	2,039	2,244	2,259	2,262	2,323	7,030	9,087	2,315	0.3
Ad and Promotion costs	459	617	806	967	876	831	746	703	2,849	3,155	838	-16.1
Other Expenses	223	232	278	270	326	389	376	411	1,003	1,502	386	6.6
EBITDA	997	1,063	1,209	1,280	1,631	1,840	2,168	2,203	4,549	7,842	2,049	7.5
EBITDA Margin (%)	31.2	30.2	29.1	28.1	32.1	34.6	39.1	39.1	29.5	36.3	36.7	240bp
Depreciation	103	99	99	97	99	105	115	129	398	447	117	10.0
EBIT Margin (%)	28.0	27.4	26.7	26.0	30.2	32.6	37.0	36.8	26.9	34.3	34.6	220bp
Other Income	410	440	428	421	419	499	396	437	1,699	1,751	447	-2.3
PBT bef. Extra-ordinary	1,290	1,392	1,527	1,595	1,942	2,225	2,440	2,500	5,804	9,107	2,368	5.6
Provision for Tax	281	377	342	388	457	544	523	524	1,387	2,047	568	-7.9
ETR (%)	21.7	27.1	22.4	24.3	23.6	24.4	21.4	20.9	23.9	22.5	24.0	-310bp
PAT bef. Extra-ordinary	1,010	1,015	1,185	1,207	1,484	1,681	1,917	1,977	4,417	7,059	1,800	9.9
EOI	0	82,542	2,178	0	0	0	-2,760	-187	84,720	-2,947	0	
Reported PAT	1,010	83,557	3,364	1,207	1,484	1,681	-843	1,789	89,137	4,112	1,800	-0.6
QoQ (%)	38.5	NA	NA	-64.1	23.0	13.3	NA	NA			NA	
YoY (%)	21.3	NA	381.4	65.6	47.0	NA	NA	48.3	NA	NA	49.1	
EPS (INR)	7.9	7.9	9.2	9.4	11.5	13.1	14.9	13.8	34.1	31.7	14.0	-1.1

Y/E March		FY22				FY23				FY23
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q		
Operating metrics										
Headcount	4,489	4,460	4,469	4,805	5,107	5,282	5,336	5,311	4,805	5,311
Naukri – Revenue per unique customer	38,808	39,447	45,145	47,764	51,019	55,627	59403	56336	94,434	129735
99acres – Listings (k)	894	1,469	1,082	1,081	1,109	1,052	1,077	1,191	4,376	4,526
Revenue (VoV %)										

Key performance indicators

Revenue (YOY %) 40% 11% 40% 64% 73% 74% 27% 45% 48% Recruitment 63% 22% 44% 25% 99acres 16% 33% 31% 35% 24% 23% 31%



Highlights from the management commentary

Recruitment

The caution in hiring for IT Services continues and the slowdown is expected to continue for the next few months. Apr'23/May'23 continued to be weak for IT hiring.

- Management is hopeful of a recovery in IT hiring in 2HFY24. Further, it sees some opportunity for IT in GCCs and captives.
- The demand for the Non-IT segment continues to remain robust. There is strong demand in BFSI, retail, construction, real estate, and travel and hospitality domains while consumer durables, FMCG, healthcare and education have seen some growth moderation.
- It is optimizing the search and recruitment engine on the platform to focus more on non-IT hiring as there are good opportunities in this space. It remains confident of a healthy growth from the non-IT segment.
- During the recession, generally, jobs slow down first, but in the long term, more jobs get outsourced to India. Thus, industry might see a strong comeback in IT.
- If the economy grows at healthy rates (6-7%) it is confident of growing in 20%+ levels.
- It currently operates only in 40-45 cities and plans to expand its offerings in smaller cities that can generate healthy contribution in the longer term.
- It has reduced discounts and increased pricing in 4QFY23 though it had to provide some discounts in IT hiring side due to the ongoing slowdown. It expects pricing on IT to revert once the growth normalizes.
- INFOE is confident of sustaining current margins if the billings grow at least by 14-15%.

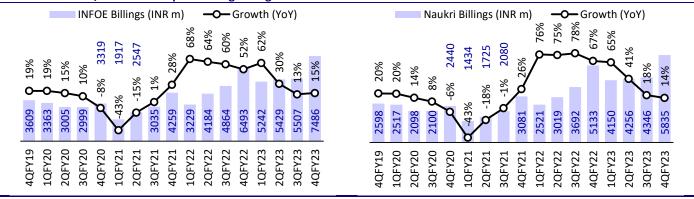
Real Estate

- There was a broad based volume-driven growth across new homes, resale, commercial properties, etc
- The real estate market remains stable with inventories at an all-time low, new launches and good demand for new homes.
- There was a strong growth in number of enquiries and traffic aided by the improvements made on the platform, despite cuts in marketing spends and heightened competition.
- It is seeing strong trends in new home category which can drive healthy demand for the next 2-3 years. For large customers, it follows listing charges + cost per lead model.

Other highlights

- Rebound in domestic demand drove strong growth in Siksha.
- 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 strong billings



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 2: 99acres billings were up 31% YoY

 4QFY19
 667
 19%

 1QFY20
 484
 18%

 2QFY20
 605
 21%

 3QFY20
 543
 11%

 4QFY20
 -24%
 507

 1QFY21
 -71%
 140

 2QFY21
 717
 140

 4QFY21
 717
 41%

 4QFY22
 224
 60%

 2QFY22
 614
 17%

 4QFY22
 793
 11%

 4QFY23
 757
 11%

 3QFY23
 757
 11%

 3QFY23
 710
 16%

 4QFY23
 710
 16%

 4QFY19
 344
 8%

 1QFY20
 362
 12%

 2QFY20
 372
 8%

 3QFY21
 343
 5%

 1QFY21
 343
 5%

 2QFY21
 343
 5%

 2QFY21
 431
 21%

 4QFY21
 461
 24%

 1QFY22
 484
 24%

 3QFY22
 567
 23%

 4QFY23
 481
 -1%

 1QFY23
 481
 -1%

 4QFY23
 614
 8%

Exhibit 3: Billings from JS and Shiksha saw sharp rebound

Source: MOFSL, Company Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 4: SoTP-based TP at INR4,010

Segment	Methodology Methodology description ★ Estimate 13% revenue CAGR and 13% EBIT CAGR over FY23-34. Our WACC/terminal growth estimate stands at 12%/6%, respectively		thodology description	Valuation toward INFOE (INR b)	Contribution (INR per share)
Naukri			312	2,408	
99acres.com	DCF	*	Estimate 15% revenue CAGR over FY23-34. Our WACC/terminal growth estimate stands at 12%/7%, respectively	25	191
Zomato.com	Market valuation	*	Factoring in current market valuation	88	679
Policybazaar.com	Market valuation	*	Factoring in current market valuation	47	364
Jeevansathi.com and other	Multiples	*	7x FY24E EV/sales	16	121
Other investee companies				9	70
Cash on the books				23	178
Total (Rounded)					4,810

Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 5: Revisions to our estimates

	Revised estimate		Earlier (estimate	Change (%/bp)	
Standalone business	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E
Revenue (INR m)	25.0	28.8	24.8	28.8	0.6	-0.1
YoY (%)	15.6	15.3	15.2	16.2	40bp	-80bp
EBITDA (%)	36.5	37.1	34.9	35.0	160bp	210bp
EBIT (%)	34.5	35.1	32.8	32.9	170bp	220bp
EPS (INR)	61.2	72.5	59.0	68.7	3.7	5.4

Source: MOFSL, Company

27 May 2023

Valuation and view

■ Though near-term growth in Recruitment is expected to be adversely impacted by lower IT demand, good medium-term growth in Recruitment should help the company deliver 15% revenue CAGR over FY23-25.

- 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 INR4,010. We reiterate our Neutral rating.

Financials and valuations

Income Statement (INR m)	EV4.0	EV40	EVOO	EV24	EVAA	EV22	E)/2.4E	EVAFF
Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Sales	9,155	10,983	12,727	11,091	15,430	21,586	24,960	28,784
Change (%)	14.1	20.0	15.9	-12.9	39.1	39.9	15.6	15.3
Employee expense	3,931	4,586	5,396	5,528	7,030	9,087	10,644	12,265
Advertising cost	1,164	1,757	2,044	1,819	2,849	3,155	3,496	3,886
Other expense	1,088	1,226	1,260	913	1,003	1,502	1,716	1,957
EBITDA	2,973	3,413	4,028	2,831	4,549	7,842	9,104	10,676
As a percentage of Net Sales	32.5	31.1	31.6	25.5	29.5	36.3	36.5	37.1
Depreciation	215	204	414	438	398	447	499	576
Interest	1	1	67	57	46	39	50	58
Other Income	971	1,112	876	1,188	1,699	1,751	1,872	2,303
PBT	3,728	4,320	4,423	3,524	5,804	9,107	10,427	12,345
Tax	991	1,169	1,133	753	1,387	2,047	2,502	2,963
Rate (%)	26.6	27.1	25.6	21.4	23.9	22.5	24.0	24.0
Adjusted PAT	2,737	3,151	3,290	2,771	4,417	7,059	7,924	9,382
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	7,924	9,382
Change (%)	-10.8	54.5	-27.0	33.2	NA	NA	92.7	18.4
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	1,15,899	1,25,282
Net Worth	21,074	23,239	24,317	45,642	1,39,721	1,09,265	1,17,189	1,26,572
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	1,24,276	1,33,658
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	41,680	60,271
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	-5,667	-5,548
Loans and Advances	1,436	1,032	4,273	0,331	1,323	2,242	-5,667	-5,546
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	6,482 6,225	6,968	10,854	12,791	17,252	36,285
Current Liab. and Prov.	4,703	5,628	5,676	6,306	10,854	11,947	16,408	35,441
		496			793			
Provisions Not Current Assets	456		549	662		844	844	844
Net Current Assets	9,869	9,860	7,156	23,325	20,178	18,496	24,428	23,987
Application of Funds	21,118	23,285	24,885	46,091	1,50,921	1,15,506	1,24,276	1,33,658

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	61.2	72.5
Cash EPS	24.1	27.3	30.1	25.2	37.2	58.1	65.1	76.9
Book Value	173.4	190.8	199.4	361.6	1,086.0	849.3	910.9	983.8
DPS	5.5	6.0	6.0	8.0	21.0	15.9	30.6	36.2
Payout (%)	37.0	26.2	35.9	37.7	61.6	50.0	50.0	50.0
Valuation (x)								
P/E	282.4	183.0	251.3	194.9	123.2	132.0	68.6	57.9
Cash P/E	174.4	153.6	139.6	166.4	113.0	72.3	64.5	54.6
EV/EBITDA	182.5	159.1	134.2	190.1	121.8	70.0	61.2	52.1
EV/Sales	59.3	49.4	42.5	48.5	35.9	25.4	22.3	19.3
Price/Book Value	24.2	22.0	21.1	11.6	3.9	4.9	4.6	4.3
Dividend Yield (%)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.9
Profitability Ratios (%)								
RoE	13.4	14.2	13.8	7.8	4.8	4.9	6.2	13.1
RoCE	13.4	14.2	13.9	7.9	4.5	5.3	6.6	7.3
RoIC	-91.1	135.3	70.5	18.8	18.9	44.5	40.0	37.7
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	35.5	54.6

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	10,392	9,325
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	-2,449	12,885
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	-2,769	12,565
Net Purchase of Invest.	-7,973	8,718	5,245	-18,438	-2,016	5,413	-1,128	-7,697
Net Cash from Invest.	-12,132	6,442	-3,794	-18,829	-10,539	-5,467	-1,448	-8,017
Proceeds from Equity	48	27	3	18,292	2	3	0	0
Proceeds from LTB/STB	-1	0	-204	-233	-186	-213	-50	-58
Dividend Payments	-803	-808	-1,176	0	-2,058	-1,932	-3,962	-4,691
Cash Flow from Fin.	-757	-781	-1,377	18,059	-2,242	-2,141	-4,012	-4,749
Net Cash Flow	-9,822	8,618	-2,684	2,077	-5,534	267	-7,909	119
Opening Cash Bal.	11,280	1,458	1,053	4,275	6,351	1,323	2,242	-5,667
Add: Net Cash	-9,822	-405	3,222	2,076	-5,028	919	-7,909	119
Closing Cash Bal.	1,458	1,053	4,275	6,351	1,323	2,242	-5,667	-5,548

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

NOTES

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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