Motilal Oswal

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Estimate change	\longleftrightarrow
TP change	
Rating change	\longleftrightarrow

Bloomberg	INFOE IN
Equity Shares (m)	129
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	691.1 / 8.3
52-Week Range (INR)	5545 / 3308
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	1/8/32
12M Avg Val (INR M)	1382

Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Y/E Mar	2024E	2025E	2026E
Sales	23.8	26.7	31.3
EBITDA	9.4	10.3	12.3
Adj. PAT	8.3	8.9	10.6
EPS (INR)	63.6	68.4	81.6
EPS Gr. (%)	99.8	7.6	19.2
BV/Sh. (INR)	913.3	982.2	999.4
Ratios			
RoE (%)	7.0	6.9	7.9
Payout (%)	50.0	50.0	50.0
Valuations			
P/E (x)	84.0	78.0	65.5
P/BV (x)	5.8	5.4	5.3

Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Dec-23	Sep-23	Dec-22
Promoter	37.9	38.0	38.1
DII	20.0	18.8	17.2
FII	30.7	31.3	32.1
Others	11.4	12.1	12.7
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FII Includes depository receipts

Info Edge (India)

TP: INR4,950 (-7%)

CMP: INR5,342

Neutral

In-line 3Q, despite pressure on IT; valuations full Margin improvement encouraging; reiterate Neutral

- Info Edge (INFOE) delivered in-line revenue performance with beat on margins in 3QFY24. Revenue increased 7.2% YoY in 3QFY24 (est. 7.7%).
 EBITDA margin, at 40.4%, was a strong 170bp beat on our estimate. Overall billings were up 4.8% YoY to INR5.8b, which was broadly in line with our expectations.
 - The management continues to see a slowdown in IT hiring activity, which remains a key risk, given its substantial revenue contribution to the Naukri business. On a positive note, the non-IT sector has performed well over the past few quarters, partially offsetting the adverse impact from IT hiring. However, the growing focus on the smaller towns (tier-2 and tier-3) and cities continues to improve the new customer additions, which is a favorable trend.
- We expect IT hiring to recover in FY25 from a low base in FY24, followed by a sharp recovery in billing for FY25E/FY26E, especially on the consulting front.
- In 3QFY24, 99acres posted robust revenue growth (up 25% YoY). The sector is witnessing strong tailwinds on the back of demand outpacing supply with limited availability of inventory. The meaningful reduction in advertising spends coupled with robust cost-controlling measures are likely to result in continued reduction of losses for 99acres in the near term, before it turns profitable.
- INFOE has surprised over the last two quarters with a sharp margin improvement and reduced reliance on advertising, along with enhanced operating leverage.

However, the moderating YoY growth for its Naukri business (~75% of revenue) provide limited near-term visibility for margin improvement. We expect an FY25E/FY26E EBITDA margin of 38.7%/39.4%.

- We forecast standalone revenue and APAT to clock a 15% and 13% CAGR each over FY24-26E, driven by sharp recovery in 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 INR4,950. We reiterate our Neutral stance on the stock.

In-line revenue despite Naukri weakness; margin resilience continues

- Standalone revenue was up 7.2% YoY (est. up 7.7% YoY); EBITDA was up 11% YoY (40.4% margin vs. estimate of 38.7%)
- Recruitment Solutions was up 3.2% YoY (down 1.2% QoQ) vs. our estimate of +5.5% YoY; 99 Acres revenue up 22% YoY (est. 23%); Others segment revenue up 23% YoY vs 5% YoY estimated
- Margin was aided by lower employee cost and advertisement spend
- Adj PAT was up 11% YoY (vs. est. 3.7%) to INR2.1b (est. INR 2.0b) on margin beat and higher 'other income'.

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Investors are advised to refer through important disclosures made at the last page of the Research Report.

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Highlights from the management commentary

- Recruitment: The growth was adversely impacted by continued slowdown in the IT segment. The non-IT business continues to perform well with pharma, healthcare, manufacturing, BFSI having delivered healthy growth in 3Q. The numbers of new onboarding on the platform was primarily led by IIMJobs, up 19% YoY in 3Q. It continues to invest in AI and improve user experience and product offerings on its platform to complement Naukri business
- Real Estate: In the Real Estate sector, growth momentum persisted in 3Q across both the primary and secondary markets, with robust demand and limited inventory. The company plans to further invest within the space to improve user experience and drive monetization through improved search engine capabilities, driven by AI and Machine learning.

Valuations and view

- Though we expect a healthy recovery in IT services demand in FY25, the nearterm 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 INR4,950. We reiterate our Neutral stance on the stock.

Standalone quarterly perfe	ormance											(INR m)
Y/E March	_	FY2	23			FY24				FY24E	FY24	Var.
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4QE			3QE	(%/bp)
Revenues	5,077	5,318	5,552	5,640	5,843	5,930	5,954	6,024	21,586	23,752	5,982	-0.5
YoY (%)	81.2	107.6	103.9	87.7	15.1	11.5	7.2	6.8	94.6	10.0	7.7	-50bp
Salary costs	2,244	2,259	2,262	2,323	2,464	2,435	2,422	2,489	9 <i>,</i> 087	9,810	2,509	-3.5
Ad and Promotion costs	876	831	746	703	680	686	686	783	3,155	2,835	748	-8.3
Other Expenses	326	389	376	411	432	398	439	410	1,502	1,679	407	7.9
EBITDA	1,631	1,840	2,168	2,203	2,266	2,411	2,407	2,343	7,842	9,428	2,318	3.8
EBITDA Margin (%)	32.1	34.6	39.1	39.1	38.8	40.7	40.4	38.9	36.3	39.7	38.7	170bp
Depreciation	99	105	115	129	153	176	174	151	447	654	150	16.4
EBIT Margin (%)	30.2	32.6	37.0	36.8	36.2	37.7	37.5	36.4	34.3	36.9	36.2	130bp
Other Income	419	499	396	437	578	636	650	482	1,751	2,346	479	35.9
PBT bef. Extra-ordinary	1,942	2,225	2,440	2,500	2,667	2,824	2,837	2,644	9,107	10,973	2,617	8.4
Provision for Tax	457	544	523	524	668	687	701	635	2,047	2,691	628	11.7
ETR (%)	23.6	24.4	21.4	20.9	25.0	24.3	24.7	24.0	22.5	24.5	24.0	70bp
PAT bef. Extra-ordinary	1,484	1,681	-843	1,789	1,999	2,087	2,136	2,009	4,112	8,232	1,989	7.4
EOI	0	0	-2,760	-187	0	-50	0	0	-2,947	-50	0	
Reported PAT	1,484	1,681	1,917	1,977	1,999	2,137	2,136	2,009	7,059	8,282	1,989	7.4
QoQ (%)	103.7	13.3	14.1	3.1	1.1	6.9	-0.1	-5.9			-6.9	
YoY (%)	78.3	228.6	174.4	171.3	34.7	27.1	11.4	1.6	160.8	17.3	3.7	
Adj EPS (INR)	11.5	13.1	-6.5	13.9	15.5	16.2	16.5	15.6	31.8	63.6	15.4	7.3

Key performance indicators

Y/E March	FY23					FY24			
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	
Operating metrics									
Headcount	5,107	5,282	5,336	5,311	5,568	5,594	6,602		5,311
99acres – Listings (k)	1,109	1,052	1,077	1,191	1,163	1,134	1,007		4,526
Revenue (YoY %)									
Recruitment	74%	63%	40%	27%	15%	9%	3%		48%
99acres	35%	44%	24%	23%	25%	25%	22%		31%

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Highlights from the management commentary Recruitment

- Within Recruitment business, the growth was adversely impacted by continued slowdown in the IT segment. The non-IT business continues to perform well with pharma, healthcare, manufacturing, BFSI having delivered healthy growth in 3Q. The numbers of new onboarding on the platform was primarily led by IIMJobs, up 19% YoY in 3Q. It continues to invest in AI and improve user experience and product offerings on its platform to complement Naukri business.
- In the Real Estate sector, growth momentum persisted in 3Q across both the primary and secondary markets, with robust demand and limited inventory. The company plans to further invest within the space to improve user experience and drive monetization through improved search engine capabilities, driven by AI and Machine learning.
- In 3Q, Jeevansaathi and Shiksha observed a significant decline in operating and marketing-related expenditure, resulting in the mitigation of operating losses for both segments. However, the focus is to drive higher growth and improve monetization strategies.
- It has not witnessed any recovery in the hiring trend for IT. The continued slowdown in demand is deteriorating the consulting-related hiring. Despite the attrition rate moderating from its peak, the hiring trend is not gaining any strength. Otherwise, the hiring trend under certain pockets or non-IT business remains strong. The company maintained caution regarding the near-term recovery of the IT business.
- On the pricing front, it has not seen any improvement in pricing and it is difficult to revise pricing upward in a weak demand environment, and it is even more difficult to improve the volume. The company has undergone strategic initiatives and has added non-IT customers in smaller towns (tier-2 and tier-3). If the volume picks up within those areas, then it can reconsider price negotiation.
- The management believes that the hiring trend within GCCs are primarily led by the smaller GCCs having overall headcount of less than 500. However, the bigger GCCs within BFS, Retail, Consumer have slowed their recruitment engines. Ideally, the company gets sizable volume from the bigger GCCs vs the smaller ones.

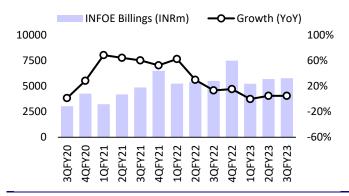
Margin Outlook

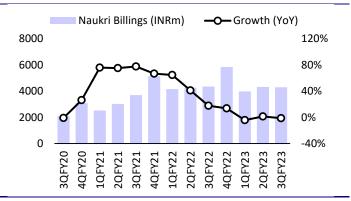
- The company witnessed sharp margin improvement within 99Acres and Jeevansaathi in 3Q. This was primarily achieved through substantial reductions in advertising expenditure and the implementation of cost-controlling measures, effectively leveraging operating capabilities.
- It would continue to invest in building sales engine within tier-2 and tier-2 cities, irrespective of growth within those segments. It is working on monetizing the platforms and moved to a freemium model. Some of earlier experiments have paid off well; additionally, it has internal targets to breakeven the loss-making units.

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Info Edge

Exhibit 1: Overall/Recruitment remained steady





Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 2: 99acres billings were up 25% YoY

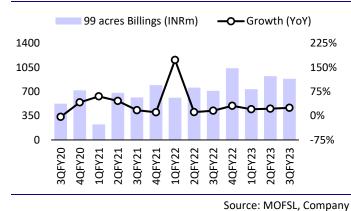


Exhibit 3: Billing from JS and Shiksha saw sharp uptick

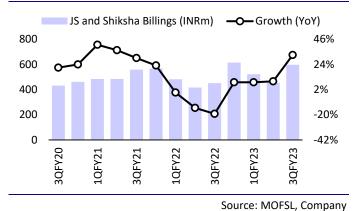


Exhibit 4: SoTP-based TP at INR4,950

Segment	Methodology Methodology description		Valuation toward INFOE (INR b)	Contribution (INR per share)		
Naukri	DCF	*	Estimate 10% revenue CAGR and 11% EBIT CAGR over FY24-34E. Our WACC/terminal growth estimate stands at 12%/6%, respectively	264	2,035	
99acres.com	DCF	*	Estimate 20% revenue CAGR over FY24-34E. Our WACC/terminal growth estimate stands at 12%/7%, respectively	41	313	
Zomato.com	Market valuation	*	Factoring in current market valuation	208	1,605	
Policybazaar.com	Market valuation	*	Factoring in current market valuation	72	559	
Jeevansathi.com and other	Multiples	*	7x FY25E EV/sales	18	136	
Other investee companies				11	85	
Cash on the books				28	214	
Total (Rounded)					4,950	

Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 5: Revisions to our estimates

	Revised estimate			E	arlier estimat	te	Change (%/bp)		
Standalone business	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue (INR m)	23.8	26.7	31.3	23.8	26.6	31.8	0.2%	-0.2%	1.5%
YoY (%)	10.0	12.2	17.4	10.2	12.0	17.8	20bps	-20bps	40bps
EBITDA (%)	39.7	38.7	39.4	39.2	37.9	39.1	-50bps	-80bps	-30bps
EBIT (%)	36.9	36.2	36.9	36.6	35.4	36.6	-30bps	-80bps	-30bps
EPS (INR)	63.6	68.4	81.6	62.8	67.1	82.7	-1.2%	-1.9%	1.4%

Source: MOFSL, Company

Valuation and view

- Though we expect a healthy recovery in IT services demand in FY25, the nearterm 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 INR4,950. We reiterate our Neutral stance on the stock.

Financials and valuations

Income Statement (INR m)

Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Sales	10,983	12,727	11,091	15,430	21,586	23,752	26,662	31,299
Change (%)	20.0	15.9	-12.9	39.1	39.9	10.0	12.2	17.4
Employee expense	4,586	5,396	5,528	7,030	9,087	9,810	11,056	12,611
Advertising cost	1,757	2,044	1,819	2,849	3,155	2,835	3,466	4,225
Other expense	1,226	1,260	913	1,003	1,502	1,679	1,813	2,128
EBITDA	3,413	4,028	2,831	4,549	7,842	9,428	10,327	12,334
As a percentage of Net Sales	31.1	31.6	25.5	29.5	36.3	39.7	38.7	39.4
Depreciation	204	414	438	398	447	654	667	782
Interest	1	67	57	46	39	147	133	156
Other Income	1,112	876	1,188	1,699	1,751	2,346	2,133	2,504
РВТ	4,320	4,423	3,524	5,804	9,107	10,973	11,660	13,899
Тах	1,169	1,133	753	1,387	2,047	2,691	2,798	3,336
Rate (%)	27.1	25.6	21.4	23.9	22.5	24.5	24.0	24.0
Adjusted PAT	3,151	3,290	2,771	4,417	7,059	8,282	8,861	10,563
Extraordinary Items	-334	-1,233	-32	84,720	-2,947	-50	0	0
Reported PAT	2,817	2,057	2,739	89,137	4,112	8,232	8,861	10,563
Change (%)	54.5	-27.0	33.2	3,154.4	-95.4	100.2	7.6	19.2

Balance Sheet

Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Share Capital	1,220	1,223	1,285	1,287	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,290
Reserves	22,019	23,094	44,357	1,38,434	1,07,975	1,16,207	1,25,068	1,27,284
Net Worth	23,239	24,317	45,642	1,39,721	1,09,265	1,17,497	1,26,358	1,28,574
Loans	46.0	568.7	449.1	11,115.9	7,086.4	7,086.4	7,086.4	7,086.4
Capital Employed	23,285	24,885	46,091	1,50,837	1,16,351	1,24,583	1,33,445	1,35,660
Gross Block	2,109	3,279	3,462	3,704	4,953	4,428	4,748	4,748
Less: Depreciation	1,540	1,954	2,391	2,796	3,243	3,725	4,221	4,221
Net Block	569	1,325	1,072	908	1,710	703	527	527
CWIP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Investments	12,857	16,404	21,694	1,29,751	96,145	99,145	1,09,145	1,09,145
Curr. Assets	15,984	13,381	30,293	31,032	31,287	41,988	60,058	69,361
Current Investments	3,400	2,554	0	4,409	7,547	8,547	11,547	12,547
Debtors	60	70	54	79	90	134	235	270
Cash	1,052	4,275	6,351	1,323	2,242	1,671	4,064	7,911
Loans and Advances	0	0	0	0	230	0	0	0
Other Current Assets	11,472	6,482	23,888	25,220	21,178	31,636	44,212	48,634
Current Liab. and Prov.	6,125	6,225	6,968	10,854	12,791	17,252	36,285	43,373
Current Liabilities	5,628	5,676	6,306	10,061	11,947	16,408	35,441	42,529
Provisions	496	549	662	793	844	844	844	844
Net Current Assets	9,860	7,156	23,325	20,178	18,496	24,736	23,773	25,989
Application of Funds	23,285	24,885	46, 0 91	1,50,837	1,16,351	1,24,583	1,33,445	1,35,660

Financials and valuations

Ratios								
Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Basic (INR)								
EPS	22.9	16.7	21.5	34.1	31.8	63.6	68.4	81.6
Cash EPS	27.3	30.1	25.2	37.2	58.1	69.0	73.6	87.6
Book Value	190.8	199.4	361.6	1,086.0	849.3	913.3	982.2	999.4
DPS	6.0	6.0	8.0	21.0	15.9	31.8	34.2	40.8
Payout (%)	26.2	35.9	37.7	61.6	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0
Valuation (x)								
P/E	232.6	319.5	247.8	156.6	167.8	84.0	78.0	65.5
Cash P/E	195.3	177.5	211.5	143.6	91.9	77.4	72.6	60.9
EV/EBITDA	202.3	170.8	242.2	154.2	88.8	73.9	67.3	56.0
EV/Sales	62.9	54.1	61.8	45.5	32.3	29.3	26.1	22.1
Price/Book Value	28.0	26.8	14.8	4.9	6.3	5.8	5.4	5.3
Dividend Yield (%)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.8
Profitability Ratios (%)								
RoE								
RoCE	14.2	13.9	7.9	4.5	5.3	7.0	6.9	7.9
RoIC	135.3	70.5	18.8	18.9	44.5	51.7	61.4	119.1
Turnover Ratios								
Debtors (Days)	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	19.3	9.6	10.4	17.0	12.6	33.8	50.6	59.4
Cash Flow Statement								(INR m)
Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
CF from Operations	2.097	1,735	2,092	3,427	6,187	10,477	8,788	4,150
Cash for Working Capital	860	752	756	3,820	1,688	-5,811	6,356	2,632
Net Operating CF	2,956	2,487	2,848	7,247	7,875	4,666	15,144	6,781
Net Purchase of FA	-2,276	-9,039	-391	-8,523	-10,880	-320	-320	0,701
Free Cash Flow	680	-6,552	2,456	-1,276	-3,004	4,346	14,824	6,781
Net Purchase of Invest.	8,718	5,245	-18,438	-2,016	5,413	-654	-7,867	2,504
Net Cash from Invest.	6,442	-3,794	-18,829	-10,539	-5,467	-974	-8,187	2,504
Proceeds from Equity	27	3	18,292	2	3	0	0	0
Proceeds from LTB/STB	0	-204	-233	-186	-213	-147	-133	-156
Dividend Payments	-808	-1,176	0	-2,058	-1,932	-4,116	-4,431	-5,282
Cash Flow from Fin.	-781	-1,377	18,059	-2,242	-2,141	-4,263	-4,564	-5,438
Net Cash Flow	8,618	-2,684	2,077	-5,534	267	-571	2,393	3,847
Opening Cash Bal.	1,458	1,053	4,275	6,351	1,323	2,242	1,671	4,064
Add: Net Cash	-405	3,222	2,076	-5,028	919	-571	2,393	3,847
Closing Cash Bal.	1,053	4,275	6,351	1,323	2,242	1,671	4,064	7,911
	2,000	.,	0,001	1,010	_,	2,072	1,001	7,521

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

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