Today Lok Awaas Yatra of Himachal Trail was launched at Institute of Integrated Himalayan Studies. The inaugural seminar began with a welcome and brief introduction of the route and objectives of the yatra by Jitender Verma, Director (Projects), Centre for Sustainable Development. Suneet Anand, Knowledge Works set the ball rolling with his elaborate presentation on the conception of Lok Awaas Yatra and its various themes. The presentation was interspersed with some healthy discussions with researchers of IIHS on various aspects of the yatra. Satyender Nath Pandey threw light on various activities being undertaken under Himachal CLAP. Prof. S.P. Bansal, Director, IIHS in his keynote address highlighted the importance of such activities and appreciated the efforts of various agencies involved in organising LAY.

In the post lunch session yatra left for village Koti in Kotkhai. This small village has developed some models for others to emulate. The streets of village are lighted by solar street light. These lights have been set up with government help and the villagers now themselves maintain the lights. The villagers have formed an
NGO Paryavaran Kalyan Manch which has banned deforestation and the villagers report the matter to the authorities of the violaters. The villagers have set up Rain Water Harvesting Tanks to store rainwater.

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