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WRESTLING IN OLYMPICS

Home stars launch campaign

AGE CORRESPONDENT
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Country's top wrestlers Sushil Kumar and Yogeshwar Dutt on Thursday flagged off a campaign, in a bid to garner support for reinstating wrestling into the Olympic Games.

Over the next week, a petition campaign will travel across cities in Haryana and Punjab to push for wrestling's bid to remain in the 2020 Olympic programme when the International Olympic Committee meets in May.

"We urge the supporters of the game to come forward and support 'Push for Wrestling' campaign and show the world how much we love the sport. The removal of the sport from the 2020 Olympics will ruin dreams of many wrestlers," Sushil said here.

Asked if he was thinking of returning his Olympic



Sushil Kumar (left) and Yogeshwar Dutt.

medals in protest, as some of the wrestlers from Russia and Bulgaria have threatened, Sushil said there were better ways of protesting against the IOC's decision.

"I think there are better ways of registering your protest. A medal is earned after lot of hardships. Also, I am confident the sport will be reinstated as it has massive fan following," the silver medallist at the

London Olympics said.

Meanwhile, Yogeshwar said he would be more than happy to return his London Olympics bronze medal if the move guarantees wrestling's stay in the list of Olympic core sports.

"We are working on the guidance of our federation. If they think that the wrestlers should return their medals in protest, I will be the first one to do it," Yogeshwar said.