



Dayanand Shetty

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Dayanand Chandrashekhar Shetty (born 11 December 1969) is an [Indian](#) film and television actor and model, best known for his role as Senior Inspector Daya in [India](#)'s longest-running television police procedural, *[CID](#)*.^{[1][2]} He was inducted into the [Gold Awards](#) Hall of Fame in 2018.^[3]

Personal life [[edit](#)]

Shetty was born on 11 December 1969, in a [Tulu](#) speaking [Bunt](#) family in [Shirva](#)^[4] village in [Dakshina Kannada](#) (now [Udupi district](#)) of [Karnataka](#) to Chandra Prakash Shetty and Uma Shetty. He has two sisters (Naina and Sandhya). He did his B.com from Rizvi College, [Bandra](#) in [Mumbai](#).^[4] He married Smitha Shetty and they have a daughter, Viva Shetty.^[5]

Career [[edit](#)]

Shetty is a sportsman who turned to acting due to a leg injury. He was a shot put and discus thrower, and won many prizes in these sports. He was the champion of discus throw from Maharashtra in 1996. He has acted in many commercials and has won awards as a theatre artist. He won the Best Actor award for his role in the Tulu language play *Secret*.^[6]

He auditioned and was selected for the role of *CID* officer in 1998.^[7] He is known for his role of Senior Inspector Daya in *[CID](#)*. He along with actors [Shivaji Satam](#) and [Aditya Srivastava](#) are the main leads of the show. He has also written for some of the episodes of *[CID](#)*.

In *CID*, Senior Inspector Daya is known for his immense strength, whose name is enough to make the toughest of criminals break down. Daya's signature dialogue in

Dayanand Shetty



Shetty at a Bunt community event in 2018

Born	<div>Dayanand Chandrashekhar Shetty</div> <div>11 December 1969 (age 55)</div> <div> Shirva, Mysore State, India</div>
Nationality	Indian
Other names	Daya
Occupation	Actor
Years active	1996–present
Known for	Playing Senior Inspector Daya (<i>CID</i>)
Notable work	<i>C. I. D.</i> <i>Singham Returns</i>
Spouse	<div>Smitha Shetty</div>
Awards	2 Gold Awards

CID is "Jab Daya ka hath padta hai, to muh ke andar daaton se piano bajne lagta hai" (meaning "When Daya slaps someone, then a piano plays in the mouth by the teeth"). One of the most famous dialogues in *CID* is that of ACP Pradyuman asking him, "Daya darwaaza tod do" (meaning "Daya, break the door"). This dialogue became so popular that it is even used in the film *Singham Returns* and *Singham Again* in one of its most appreciated scenes. In *CID*, Daya is also critical in finding clues to solve cases. Although tough in appearance, he is also soft-mannered and sympathetic in nature and is always the first one to support team members and others when they need help the most.



(From L-R) Dayanand Shetty, [Ansha Sayed](#), [Janvi Chheda](#), [Shivaji Satam](#), [Vineet Kumar Chaudhary](#) and [Aditya Srivastava](#) on the set of *CID*

Shetty has acted in TV commercials, plays and films. He also won the "Best Looking Guy" vote, conducted by Indian Television in 2002. He also participated in *Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa* (Season 4), a dance reality show.

A song was recorded for *CID* episode (aired on 21 January 2012), which was a lullaby sung by Shetty and his fellow actors Shivaji Satam and Aditya Shrivastava. His talent as a singer has been appreciated in talk shows like *Movers and Shakers* as well.

The movies he has acted in include *Johnny Gaddaar*, *Runway*, *Singham Returns* and *Singham Again*.

Shetty has made guest appearances in shows like *Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin* and *Kkusum*. He has acted in *Gutur Gu*, which is a silent comedy show (in both season one and two). He has made appearances as a celebrity guest in shows including *Deal Ya No Deal*, *Entertainment Ke Liye Kuch Bhi Karega (season 4)*, *Kahani Comedy Circus Ki* and *Aapka Sapna Hamara Apna*.

He participated in *5th season of Khatron Ke Khiladi* doing many stunts, but was eventually eliminated.^{[8][9]}

Shetty and [Shivaji Satam](#) appeared as celebrity guests on the TV show *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs* (in the Independence Day Special episode of 2011). Shetty, Satam, [Aditya Srivastava](#) and [Narendra Gupta](#) also appeared on *Kaun Banega Crorepati* in 2014.^[10] He has won the best-supporting actor award (for the role of Senior Inspector Daya in *CID*) in the Gold Awards 2012.

Shetty and Srivastava teamed up for a travel and food-based YouTube non-fiction show called *Safarkhana* in 2024.^[11]

Shetty also played the role of ACP Daya in film *Singham Again*.

Filmography [\[edit \]](#)

Films [\[edit \]](#)

Key

†

Denotes film or TV productions that have not yet been released

- All films are in Hindi unless otherwise noted.*

Year	Title	Role	Notes	Ref.
1996	<i>Diljale</i>	Gunman		
2007	<i>Johnny Gaddaar</i>	Shiva		
2009	<i>Runway</i>	Police Inspector		
2014	<i>Singham Returns</i>	Sr. Inspector Daya		[12]
2022	<i>Govinda Naam Mera</i>	Inspector Javed Khan		[13]
2023	<i>Yaan Superstar</i>	Bala Krishna	Tulu film	[14]
	<i>Navras Katha Collage</i>	Pakistani Police Officer		
2024	<i>Singham Again</i>	ACP Daya		[15]

Television [[edit](#)]

Year	Title	Role	Notes	Ref.
1998–2018; 2024–present	<i>CID</i>	Sr. Inspector Daya		[16]
2005	<i>CID: Special Bureau</i>			
2010	<i>Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 4</i>	Contestant	8th place	
2010–2012	<i>Gutur Gu</i>	Harpreet Singh		[17]
2012	<i>Gutur Gu</i>	Daya Singh	Season 2	
2014		Bully's neighbour	Season 3	
	<i>CID Vs Adaalat – Karmyudh</i>	Sr. Inspector Daya	Telefilm	[18]
	<i>Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 5</i>	Contestant	13th place	[19]
2019	<i>CIF</i>	Inspector Hanuman Pandey		[20]
2021	<i>Savdhaan India</i>	Host		
2024	<i>Safarkhana With Aditya & Daya</i>	Host		

Special appearance [[edit](#)]

Year	Title	Role	Ref.
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2005	<i>Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin</i>	Himself	
	<i>Kkusum</i>		
2011	<i>Surya The Super Cop</i>	Sr. Inspector Daya	
2012	<i>Adaalat - CID Viruddh Adaalat</i>		[21]
2014	<i>Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah</i>		[22]
2016	<i>Gupp Chupp</i>	Rocky	

Awards and nominations [[edit](#)]

Year	Awards	Category	Work	Result	Ref
2013	Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards India	Favorite Actor	<i>CID</i>	Nominated	
2016				Nominated	
2011	Gold Awards	Best Supporting Actor		Won	[23]
2018		Hall of Fame		Won	[3]

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