Novartis launches imatinib mesylate (chemical name for Glivec)—blood cancer medicine. The drug is sold in US markets for $2,600 per patient per month while generic versions become available in India for under $200 per patient per month.

**2005**
- Patent laws in India change as a result of the TRIPS agreement. While drugs can be patented, the law is interpreted to grant patents only to ‘true medical innovations’.
- India’s patent office starts examining patent applications on medicines, including Novartis’s patent application for imatinib mesylate.

**2006**
- **JANUARY:** Novartis’s patent application is rejected by India’s patent office.
- **MAY:** Novartis appeals against the rejection in the Madras high court. Company files another case challenging section 3(d) of the Indian Patents Act on the grounds that it is against the TRIPS agreement and the Indian Constitution.

**2007**
- **AUGUST:** The Madras high court rules against Novartis, stating ‘efficacy’ under section 3(d) would require Novartis show an increase in therapeutic efficacy.

**2009**
- **JUNE:** The Intellectual Property Appellate Board further rejects Novartis’s appeal, confirming that imatinib mesylate does not deserve a patent, on the grounds that the company was unable to show significant increase in efficacy as required under section 3(d) of India’s patent law.
- **AUGUST:** Novartis approaches the Supreme Court of India in a new case—this time seeking to challenge the interpretation and application of section 3(d) by Indian courts and patent offices.

**2012**
- **SEPTEMBER:** Final arguments start in the Supreme Court.
- **DECEMBER:** Final arguments concluded.

**2013**
- **1 APRIL:** The Supreme Court dismisses Novartis AG’s patent plea for cancer drug Glivec.