Chapter V - Kṣatriya gotra tradition
SectioD I - Kṣatriya clans treated as gotras:

The epic tradition has preserved certain Kṣatriya gotra designations which throw much light on the gotra system of the past.

Rāma is described in the Rāmāyaṇa and the Raghuvaṃsām as 1 'Kākutstha' and 'Raghunandana'. These epithets indicate that he is the gotrāpatya of Kākutstha and Raghu. Similarly, Kṛiṣṇa 2 as the gotrāpatya of Vṛiṣṇi is spoken of as 'Vārṣeṣya'.

Arjuna is designated as 'Bhārata' and 'Kuru-ṇandana', i.e., regarded as the gotrāpatya of Bharata and Kuru. 3 4 5

Pāṇini takes notice of the gotras of Bharata and Kuru. 6 7

The Viṣṇupurāṇa mentions 'Kākutstha' and 'Vṛiṣṇi' as gotras.

1 - Vide Rām III. 2. 22 - 23 ; VI. 71. 10 ; Raghu 15. 4.
2 - Vide Rām III. 13. 5 ; Raghu 13. 72.
3 - Vide Gītā I. 41.
4 - Ibid II. 28.
5 - Vide Mbh II. 27. 21.
6 - Pāṇ II. 4. 66 ; the name 'Bharata' of the Sūtra is interpreted as 'Bharata-gotra' by the Kāsikā.
7 - Ibid IV. 1. 172 ; the Kāsikā in its comment upon Pāṇ II. 4. 58 remarks -- kṣatriya-gotrasaya tatra grahanam 'Kuru-nādibhyah nyah' iti anena vihitasya.
8 - Viṣṇu IV. 2. 22 -- Kākutstha-gotra.
9 - Ibid IV. 11. 7 -- yato Vṛiṣṇi-saṃjñām etad gotram avāpa ; Kṛiṣṇa is not directly linked with the Vṛiṣṇi gotra of this context.
The clans bearing the names of Kakutstha, Raghu, Vṛṣṇi, Bharata, Kuru etc. are considered as gotras and individuals are described or addressed by the designations, formed of these clan names.

Section II - Continuity of the Kṣatriya gotra tradition:

Later in history, some royal families or autonomous clans are linked with Purānic Kṣatriya lines, regarded as gotras. One 'Rājanya-गान' is associated with the name of Vṛṣṇi in the coins. The indication is perhaps that this gana republic is named after the gotra-ancestor Vṛṣṇi.

Later tradition transforms the Pāṇḍava Yudhīśṭhira into a Kṣatriya gotra. The Dasa Brāhmaṇa Jātaka mentions a king of the Yuddhitthila gotto, who is a Koravya by birth.

The designation 'Yaudheya' of the coins appears to be a gotra name derived from one Yudhīśṭhira. The Yaudheyas form a gana republic, which is known to the author of the

2 - Jātaka No. 495; The Jātaka, ed. by V. Fausboll, vol. IV, p. 361; see also p. 34, Political history of ancient India, 4th ed.
3 - See p. 77, Coins of ancient India.
4 - See p. 166, ch. XI, The age of imperial unity.
As the Matsyapurāṇa mentions Yaudheya as the son of the eldest Pāṇḍava, it is not improbable that the clan-name 'Yaudheya' has its origin from Yudhiṣṭhira the Pāṇḍava.

The appellation 'Arjunāyana' of the coins is apparently a gotra name having its origin from the Pāṇḍava or Haihaya Arjuna.

It is thus found that the Kṣatriya gotra tradition continues through the ages.

1 - Brihatsamhitā 4. 25 ; 5. 75 ; 11. 59 ; 16. 22.

2 - Matsya 50. 55 - 57.

3 - A passage of the Mahābhārata, apparently spurious, gives the report of a conflict between Pāṇḍava Yudhiṣṭhira and the Yaudheyas; see Mbh VII. 155. 30 --- Yaudheyan Mālavān ... yudhi. prāhinot mṛityulokāya sūran vānaṅh Yudhiṣṭhirah; according to this passage, the Yaudheyas would appear to be in no way connected with Yudhiṣṭhira of the Pāṇḍu clan.

4 - See pp. 162 - 163, ch. XI, The age of imperial unity; see also Brihatsamhitā 4. 25 ; 11. 59 ; 16. 22.