24EC504 – Unit V – Part 1: Smart Agriculture, Healthcare Monitoring and Automotive Embedded Systems

1. Smart Agriculture Systems

A smart agriculture system uses an IoT-based architecture to automate farm monitoring and resource management by connecting field sensors to cloud platforms through wireless networks. It replaces manual, guesswork-driven farming with continuous, data-driven decisions, improving productivity while conserving resources.

1.1 Core Layers of the IoT Agriculture Architecture

Layer	Role	Examples
Perception layer (sensors and nodes)	Physical devices collect real-time field data; microcontrollers acquire the readings	DHT11 (temperature/humidity), soil moisture sensors, water level indicators; Arduino or NodeMCU ESP8266
Network / connectivity layer	Transmits collected data securely to servers or the cloud	Wi-Fi, Zigbee, LoRa, GSM/GPRS
Cloud / processing layer	Stores, processes and analyses time-series data against preset thresholds	Blynk, Ubidots
Application / action layer	Dashboards, mobile apps and automated actuators execute real-time responses	Water pumps and relay switches; irrigation turns on when soil moisture drops below a threshold

System block (Fig 1.1): an Arduino board connects moisture, humidity, temperature and motion sensors, an LCD display, a relay driving the water pump, and a power supply; Wi-Fi and a MAX232 + GSM/GPRS module link it to the cloud and a smartphone.

1.2 Key Benefits

- **Water conservation:** automated drip/sprinkler irrigation cuts waste based on exact soil conditions.
- **Remote monitoring:** instant SMS, email or push notifications about critical temperature or moisture changes.
- **Increased yield:** continuous crop and environment observation improves productivity.

Conclusion: by layering perception, connectivity, cloud analytics and automated action, smart agriculture closes the loop between field conditions and farmer response, making it one of the most widely deployed emerging embedded applications.

2. Healthcare Monitoring Systems

Healthcare monitoring systems use connected devices and software networks to track patient vital signs in real time. Powered by the **Internet of Medical Things (IoMT)**, they shift care from a reactive, hospital-only model to continuous, patient-centric tracking of heart rate, blood pressure, blood oxygen and ECG using wearable or implanted biosensors.

2.1 Four-Layer Architecture

1. **Sensors and data collection layer:** biosensors on or inside the body measure temperature, heart rate, glucose and more.
2. **Local processing and gateway layer:** microcontrollers or smart devices combine data from several sensors, do basic filtering and forward it securely over Bluetooth, Wi-Fi or cellular networks.
3. **Cloud server and data analytics layer:** stores large volumes of patient data and runs machine learning to spot health patterns, detect abnormalities and trigger alerts.
4. **Application and end-user layer:** dashboards for doctors, mobile apps for patients, and notifications to family members or hospital administration.

Architecture in Fig 2.1: a glucometer, motion sensor, temperature sensor and location sensor (smartphone GPS or cellular geo-position) feed a processing unit (Wi-Fi module ESP-8266-12F), which sends data to the patient's phone, then to a database server and the doctor's phone, ending in the doctor's decision.

2.2 Significance

This layered architecture enables early diagnosis, reduces hospital readmissions and supports remote/home-based care for chronic conditions, making it central to modern digital healthcare.

3. Automotive Embedded Systems

An automotive embedded system is a specialised combination of computer hardware and dedicated software that performs specific control, monitoring or safety functions inside a vehicle. Modern vehicles are "computers on wheels", using roughly 70 to 150 Electronic Control Units (ECUs) for functions from basic engine timing to advanced autonomous driving.

3.1 Core Components

Component	Function
Sensors	Wheel speed monitors, temperature gauges and LiDAR measure physical parameters of the vehicle or its environment
Electronic Control Units (ECUs)	Embedded computers with microcontrollers that process incoming data using pre-programmed firmware

Component	Function
Actuators	Fuel injectors, valves and motor servos convert electrical signals into physical actions
Communication buses	Networking protocols that let ECUs share data instantly and reliably

3.2 Automotive Communication Networks

Network	Role
CAN (Controller Area Network)	Standard robust bus for high-speed, critical data such as braking and engine metrics
LIN (Local Interconnect Network)	Low-cost, slower network for convenience features such as door locks or wipers
FlexRay / Automotive Ethernet	High-bandwidth networks for heavy data loads such as ADAS and camera feeds

3.3 System Architecture (AUTOSAR)

Traditionally the architecture was distributed, with each function on its own dedicated ECU. As codebases exceed 100 million lines, the industry is moving to a domain-controlled and centralised architecture such as **AUTOSAR (Automotive Open System Architecture)**:

- **Application layer:** vehicle functions and feature-specific algorithms (for example climate control logic).
- **RTE (Runtime Environment):** middle layer enabling data exchange between application software and the lower infrastructure.
- **Basic Software (BSW):** foundational layer that interfaces directly with microcontroller hardware, drivers and OS services.
- **Domain controllers:** powerful multi-core microprocessors that consolidate former single-function ECUs into regional zones, reducing wiring weight and computational bottlenecks.