

# CONTENTS

<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	<b>xvi</b>
<b>ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>xviii</b>
<b>SYMBOLS</b>	<b>xix</b>
<b>PREFACE</b>	<b>xx</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION AND LITERATURE REVIEW .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1    Historical sketch.....	1
1.2    Alloy design and basic concepts .....	5
1.2.1    Bulk metallic glasses (BMGs) .....	5
1.2.2    High-entropy alloys (HEAs).....	6
1.3    Core effects of HEAs .....	8
1.3.1    High-entropy effect .....	8
1.3.2    Severe lattice distortion effect .....	10
1.3.3    Sluggish diffusion effect.....	11
1.3.4    Cocktail effect.....	13
1.4    Phase selection rules in HEAs: - A theoretical approach.....	14
1.5    The Miedema model.....	19
1.6    Synthesis and processing routes for HEAs .....	21
1.7    Solid solution formation in HEAs.....	27
1.7.1    Major observed phases in HEAs .....	28
1.7.2    HEAs with BCC structure .....	28
1.7.3    HEAs with FCC structure.....	29
1.7.4    HEAs with HCP structure .....	30
1.7.5    Amorphous HEAs .....	31
1.8    Thermal stability .....	31
1.9    Properties of HEAs .....	36
1.9.1    Mechanical behaviour of HEAs .....	36
1.9.2    Physical behaviour .....	39

1.10	Prospective applications of HEAs .....	40
1.11	Motivation .....	41
1.12	Objectives .....	42
<b>CHAPTER 2.....</b>		<b>43</b>
<b>MATERIALS AND EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES .....</b>		<b>43</b>
2.1	Materials and alloy synthesis.....	43
2.2	Consolidation of milled powder .....	45
2.3	Induction melting .....	45
2.4	Density measurement .....	46
2.5	Characterization tools.....	46
2.5.1	Optical microscopy .....	46
2.5.2	X-ray diffraction (XRD).....	47
2.5.3	Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) .....	48
2.5.4	Transmission electron microscopy (TEM).....	48
2.6	Thermal analysis .....	49
2.6.1	Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) .....	49
2.6.2	Heat treatments .....	49
2.7	Mechanical testing .....	49
2.7.1	Hardness measurement.....	49
2.7.2	Compression testing .....	49
<b>CHAPTER 3.....</b>		<b>51</b>
<b>AlCoCrFeNi HIGH-ENTROPY ALLOY .....</b>		<b>51</b>
3.1	Alloying behavior of elements and phase evolution.....	51
3.2	Analysis of powder morphology.....	55
3.3	Nanostructured nature and phase evolution .....	57
3.4	Thermal stability and phase evolution during heating .....	58
3.5	Phase and microstructure evolution of the sintered alloy .....	63
3.6	Density measurement .....	67
3.7	Discussion.....	68
3.7.1	Alloy formation, phase evolution and HEA forming ability .....	68
3.7.2	Thermal stability .....	70

3.7.3	Microstructure evolution and its stability .....	73
3.8	Conclusions.....	74
<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	.....	<b>75</b>
<b>HEXANARY AlCoCrFeNiMn HIGH-ENTROPY ALLOY</b>		<b>75</b>
4.1	Phase evolution .....	75
4.2	Analysis of powder morphology.....	80
4.3	Nanostructured nature and elemental mapping of mechanically alloyed powder .....	81
4.4	Thermal stability .....	85
4.5	Microstructural characterization and phase evolution of sintered alloy.....	91
4.6	Discussion.....	92
4.6.1	Mechanical alloying behaviour.....	95
4.6.2	Thermal stability .....	97
4.7	Conclusions.....	98
<b>CHAPTER 5</b>	.....	<b>101</b>
<b>AlCoCrFeNiTi HIGH-ENTROPY ALLOY</b>		<b>101</b>
5.1	Phase formation.....	101
5.2	Analysis of powder morphology.....	104
5.3	Nanostructured nature and phase confirmation .....	105
5.4	Thermal stability .....	108
5.5	Microstructure and phase evolution in sintered alloy .....	111
5.6	Discussion.....	113
5.6.1	Solid solution forming criteria .....	113
5.6.2	Alloying behaviour.....	115
5.6.3	Thermal stability .....	116
5.7	Conclusions.....	117
<b>CHAPTER -6</b>	.....	<b>119</b>
<b>NON-EQUIATOMIC Fe<sub>40</sub>Cr<sub>25</sub>Ni<sub>15</sub>Al<sub>15</sub>Co<sub>5</sub> HIGH-ENTROPY ALLOY</b>		<b>119</b>
6.1	Structural evolution .....	120
6.2	Microstructural evolution .....	121

6.3	Chemical composition.....	126
6.4	Thermal stability .....	127
6.5	Mechanical behaviour .....	131
6.6	Discussion.....	133
6.6.1	Phase evolution in as-cast Fe <sub>40</sub> Cr <sub>25</sub> Ni <sub>15</sub> Al <sub>15</sub> Co <sub>5</sub> HEA .....	133
6.6.2	Thermal stability of Fe <sub>40</sub> Cr <sub>25</sub> Ni <sub>15</sub> Al <sub>15</sub> Co <sub>5</sub> HEA.....	135
6.6.3	Mechanical properties of Fe <sub>40</sub> Cr <sub>25</sub> Ni <sub>15</sub> Al <sub>15</sub> Co <sub>5</sub> HEA.....	136
6.7	Conclusions .....	137
<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>SUMMARY AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE WORK</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>139</b>
7.1	Summary .....	139
7.2	Suggestions for future work .....	142
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>LIST OF CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP PRESENTAIONS</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>157</b>