

# Enhanced energy density of high entropy alloy (Fe-Co-Ni-Cu-Mn) and green graphene hybrid supercapacitor

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## Abstract

Given the growing demand for new materials for supercapacitor applications, high entropy alloys (HEAs) are being extensively investigated. They are an efficient alternative to existing energy sources due to their synergistic contribution from individual element. We demonstrate the development of nanostructured HEA (FeCoNiCuMn) as a cathode material with specific capacitance ( $C_s$ ) of  $\sim 388 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  ( $5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ ). As anode material, green graphene (rice straw biochar) synthesized using pyrolysis shows a maximum  $C_s$  of  $\sim 560 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  at similar scan rate ( $5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ ). A hybrid asymmetric liquid state device was assembled using the FeCoNiCuMn nanostructured HEA and green graphene as electrodes. Utilizing the green source, the device provided a high  $C_s$  of  $83.22 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  at  $2 \text{ A g}^{-1}$ . The specific energy of the device was  $33.4 \text{ Wh kg}^{-1}$  and specific power of  $1.7 \text{ kW kg}^{-1}$ . The electrochemical behavior of each element in the high entropy composition was studied through post X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy and scanning electron microscopic analysis. The chemical behavior of FeCoNiCuMn is further investigated using DFT studies. The enhanced electrochemical properties and synergistic contribution of each element of the HEA is studied via  $d$ -band theory. The current study can be utilized to develop asymmetric hybrid supercapacitors as environmental friendly energy source.

Gobinda Chandra Mohanty, Chinmayee Chowde Gowda, and Pooja Gakhad have contributed equally to this study.

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## KEYWORDS

DFT analysis, FeCoNiCuMn, green graphene, high entropy alloy, supercapacitor, XPS studies

## 1 | INTRODUCTION

Supercapacitors have gained more research attention because of their high energy density, long-term cyclic stability, also for its bridging functionality between traditional capacitors and batteries.<sup>1,2</sup> In this aspect, various electrode materials are developed for supercapacitors; metal oxides,<sup>3</sup> chalcogenides,<sup>4</sup> metal carbides,<sup>5,6</sup> and porous carbon derivatives<sup>7</sup> are among primary choices. In the strategy of the current energy storage sources such as: Li-ion batteries,<sup>8</sup> aqueous Zn-ion batteries,<sup>9,10</sup> lithium-selenium batteries,<sup>11</sup> aqueous ammonium-ion batteries,<sup>12</sup> Li-S batteries,<sup>13</sup> hybrid-ion batteries<sup>14</sup> and supercapacitors<sup>15</sup> play an important role providing a diverse range of electrode material. The energy storage device's safety and sustainability can be demonstrated in batteries, supercapacitors and other energy devices.<sup>16,17</sup> Similarly, the prediction of the life cycle assessment at various temperature can be done by improved short-term memories,<sup>18</sup> the state of health monitoring can be studied based on electrochemical impedance spectroscopy.<sup>19</sup> Synthesizing of the above materials involve chemical routes and requires tuning or addition of other elements. In order to surpass this issue and also to bypass the concept of doping, researchers have employed high entropy alloy (HEA) based materials for electrochemical applications.<sup>20,21</sup> These HEAs offer an effective way to produce multivalent quinary framework for higher electrochemical activity. The performance in disordered multi metallic system is due to various characteristic effects such as cocktail, lattice distortion and high entropy effects that boosts the electrochemical catalytic activity and charge storage property.<sup>22</sup>

Among various HEA-based supercapacitors, (FeCoCrMnNi)<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>,<sup>23</sup> (CrMnFeCoNi)<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>,<sup>24</sup> (FeCoCrMnZn)<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>,<sup>25</sup> AlCoCrFeNi,<sup>26</sup> and FeNiCoMnMg HEA-NPs/ACNFs<sup>27</sup> along with HEA-based composites, rHEO-CNT,<sup>28</sup> HEO/f-CSAC,<sup>29</sup> NiCuFeCoMn-carbonate,<sup>30</sup> are among a few HEA explored in the field. In addition to high entropy based supercapacitive materials, various phosphate composed of similar compositions of supercapacitive materials like Fe, Co, Mn, and Ni are reported till date. Among them, cobalt manganese phosphate thin film displays highest  $C_s$  of 571 F g<sup>-1</sup> at 2.2 A g<sup>-1</sup> with nano/micro flower like morphology on stainless steel as substrate.<sup>31</sup> In addition, amorphous Fe-doped nickel-cobalt phosphate (Fe<sub>x</sub>NiCo[PO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub>) thin film shows

nanoparticles like morphology displaying highest  $C_s$  of 987 C g<sup>-1</sup> at 2.1 A g<sup>-1</sup> with excellent cyclic stability 95.3% after 5000 cycles.<sup>32</sup> Amorphous nickel-manganese phosphate on graphene nano hills covered with carbon cloth showed highest capacity of 1068 C g<sup>-1</sup> at current density of 3 A g<sup>-1</sup> with 97% capacity retention after 5000 cycles.<sup>33</sup>

Along with the HEA as cathode, biochar derived from agricultural waste was tested as anode for supercapacitor device. The material has grasped attention in areas such as energy storage due to easy synthesis, better chemical sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and high  $C_s$  (carbon derivatives). Rice straw is a prominent agricultural waste in India, China, and other South Asian countries. The wide availability of raw materials leads to biochar produced by carbonization and has been used for various applications in areas like corrosion resistance,<sup>34</sup> wastewater treatment,<sup>35</sup> increasing soil fertility, catalysis, gas sensing, energy storage and many more.<sup>36-38</sup> The article presents the production of green graphene (biochar) from rice straw agricultural waste by pyrolysis techniques. The required compositional, morphological characterizations were done along with three electrode measurements.

In this regard, we synthesized low-cost FeCoNiCuMn single-phase alloy via induction melting later crushed them into nanostructures by high energy vibratory ball milling. The required characterizations were done on these powdered samples to understand structural, morphological, and compositional characteristics. These surface oxidized quinary elements (Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>+</sup>, Mn<sup>3+</sup>, and Mn<sup>4+</sup>) significantly show electrochemical activity with aqueous potassium hydroxide (KOH) electrolyte. Further, FeCoNiCuMn HEA and rice straw biochar are used as positive and negative electrode, respectively, for fabricating a liquid state asymmetric device. We perform first principal calculations for the HEA and device performance of the material as a supercapacitor was studied thoroughly. The DFT study was used to study *d*-band center effects. Additionally, when comparing the Mn atom in the FeCoNiCuMn nanocluster to an individual, the OH<sup>-</sup> activation energy evaluated with change in adsorption energy is maximum, and Ni has the lowest adsorption energy. Post electrochemical measurements were performed in order to find insights into the material behavior after continuous cycling for longer durations. The post electrochemical studies were thoroughly studied. A comparison of surface and

diffusion controlled process with FeCoNiCuZn/Mn systems as Mn replacement of Zn was analyzed in detail along with first principle calculations involving *d*-band calculations and OH adsorption within various elements.

## 2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 | Preparation FeCoNiCuMn HEA

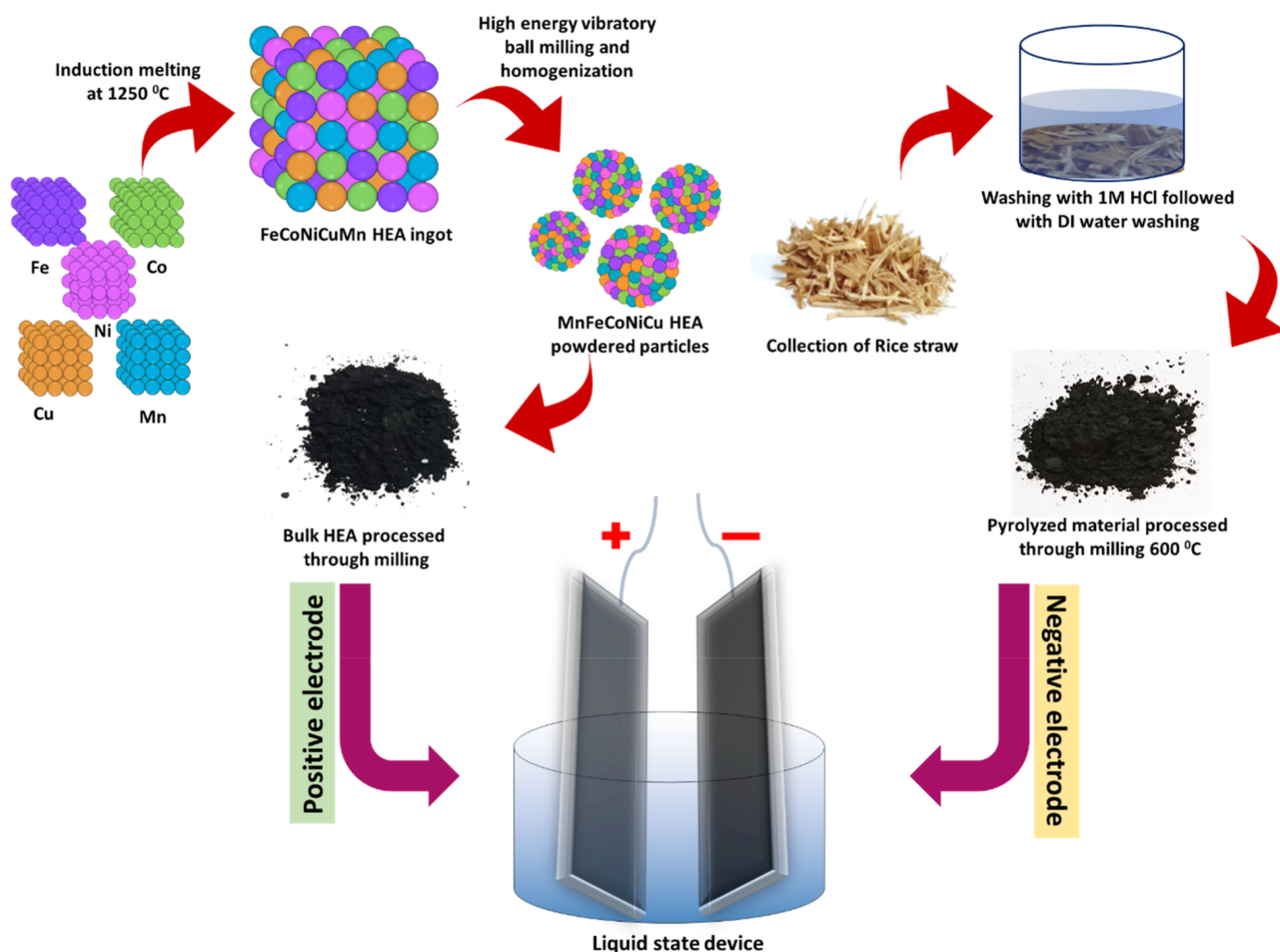
All metals (Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, and Mn) for synthesizing HEA were purchased from Loba Chemie, India. Acetylene carbon black from Alfa Aesar (CAS No: 1333-86-4), polyvinylidene fluoride (CAS No: 24937-79-9), and potassium hydroxide (CAS No: 1310-58-3) are from Merck India. Solvent N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) was purchased from Loba Chemie (CAS No: 872-50-4).

Induction melting was used for the synthesis of FeCoNiCuMn HEA. An equimolar (0.2 M) mixture of Fe, Co,

Ni, Cu, and Mn is vacuum sealed in a quartz tube. The melting procedure was carried out several times at 1150°C to ensure chemical homogeneity of bulk HEA ingot. The ingot is then placed for heat treatment for 12 h at 1000°C. Single-phase formation was confirmed via XRD and ingot was fragmented and was subsequently ground into powder an agglomerated structure using a high-energy vibratory ball mill. The schematic of the synthesis protocol is shown below in Figure 1.

### 2.2 | Preparation of Green graphene

Rice straw biochar was synthesized by pyrolysis of rice straw agricultural waste collected from agricultural fields near IIT Kharagpur campus. The collected rice straws were cleaned several times with double-distilled water and completely dehydrated at 70°C for 48 h in a hot air oven. Later heat treated to form small particles of 1 to



**FIGURE 1** Synthesis schematic for FeCoNiCuMn HEA powder, induction melting at 1250°C and homogenized heat treatment at 1000°C for 12 h followed by high energy ball milling (for 10 h to obtain 1 g of HEA powder) and synthesis schematic of green graphene from rice straw biochar at 600°C pyrolysis, ball milled and sonicated. The HEA was used as positive and green graphene from RS-biochar as negative electrode for fabricating liquid state asymmetric device.

2 mm size range.  $\sim 2$  mm sized particles were sieved and pyrolyzed at  $600^\circ\text{C}$  in tube furnace. Finally, the pyrolyzed material was named green graphene (GG) after vibratory ball milling for 3 h and probe sonicated for 1 h. The synthesis schematic is as shown in Figure 1.

### 3 | RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### 3.1 | Structural characterizations of FeCoNiCuMn HEA

X-ray diffraction pattern of single-phase FeCoNiCuMn HEA bulk and powder is as seen in Figure 2A. Major peaks at 43.46, 50.55, 74.50, and 90.45, correspond to planes (111), (200), (220), and (311) of FCC structure.<sup>39-41</sup> The lattice constant is calculated to be 3.56 Å. Additionally, it has been possible to determine whether surface functional groups are present in the bulk HEA nanostructure using the FTIR spectrum from Figure 2B. Three main peaks at 530, 562, and 591  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are mapped. Fe-O bond vibration peak observed at 530  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>42</sup> Peak 562  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  belongs to the asymmetric stretching of Co-O.<sup>43</sup> Peak 591  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is associated with bending vibration of Cu-O bond. The FTIR study confirmed that surface oxidized elements like Cu, Fe, and Co have significant consequence in the origin of charge storage in quinary HEA nanoparticles.

The additional surface properties of this quinary nanostructured HEA can be evaluated with BET. The Figure 2C shows  $\text{N}_2$  adsorption-desorption curves, which form a hysteresis loop from which BET surface area was calculated to be 19.26  $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$ . Additionally, pore size can be determined with BJH model as shown in Figure S1A, which shows the maximum number of pores in the mesoporous region ( $<50$  nm), which contributes to increased energy density. Mean zeta potential was 14 mV as shown in Figure S1B. Positive value of zeta potential refers to stable electrostatic interaction of particles and aids stable electrochemical double layer capacitance (EDLC) layer formation.

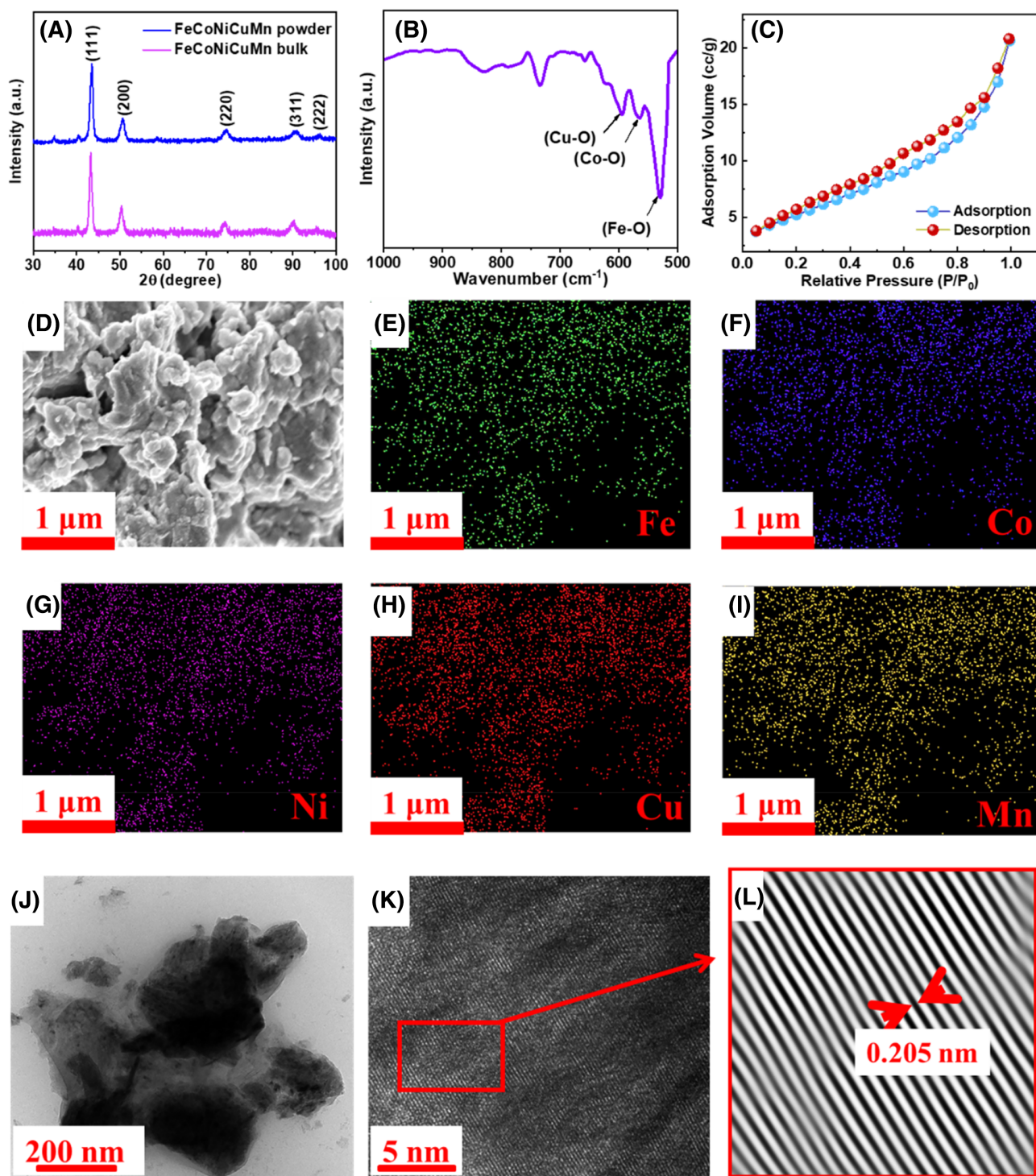
The morphological distribution of FeCoNiCuMn HEA powder is as shown in the Figure 2D. The FESEM images clearly shows low-magnification image with a clear picture of nanoparticles agglomeration. The elemental mapping can be seen in Figure 2E-I. The Figure 2J-L shows HRTEM image with agglomerated clusters. A small section was used to understand plane distribution and further processed to obtain FFT pattern. The interplanar spacing derived from inverse FFT pattern was around 0.205 nm corresponding to the plane (111).

The survey scan in Figure S4A displays presence of all quinary elements. Deconvoluted XPS spectra of each

element's oxidation states are explained in the following section. Starting with Fe 2p scan (Figure S4B), the broad peak at 711.93 eV corresponds to  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  ( $2p_{3/2}$ ), while the peak addressed at 725.94 eV shows  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  ( $2p_{1/2}$ ) of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{p}$ .<sup>44</sup> The other peaks appear at 719.95 and 733.15 eV, addressed as  $\text{Fe}^0$  and satellite peaks, respectively, which possess mixed valance Fe state. Also, from the deconvoluted XPS spectrum Co2p (Figure S4C), 780.89 ( $2p_{3/2}$ ) and 796.55 eV ( $2p_{3/2}$ ) peak ascribed to the  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  of Co2p. At the same time, other corresponding peaks, along with main peaks at 786.43 and 802.75 eV, shake up satellite peaks of Co. Similarly, Ni2p's main intense peaks split into two broad peaks at 855.46 ( $2p_{3/2}$ ) and 873.79 eV ( $2p_{3/2}$ ) belong to  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  of Ni2p shown in Figure S4D. The weaker intense peak appears at 861.13 eV, corresponding to the satellite peak for Ni2p. Similarly for Cu2p in Figure S4E, the peak appears at 934.69 eV, corresponding to the  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  of  $\text{Cu}2p_{3/2}$ , while  $\text{Cu}^+$  was addressed at 952.87 eV ( $2p_{1/2}$ ) and 932.62 eV ( $2p_{3/2}$ ), respectively.<sup>45</sup> The satellite peak appears at 942.23 eV refers to mixed valance states of surface oxidized Cu. For Mn2p as presented in Figure S4F,  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  at 652.27 and 641.79 eV of Mn2p, while 647.50 eV and 637.56 were assigned to  $\text{Mn}^{4+}$ .<sup>46</sup> The broad oxygen peak appears due to the spontaneous surface oxidation of quinary HEA during ball milling in presence of oxygen.

#### 3.2 | Structural characterizations of biochar

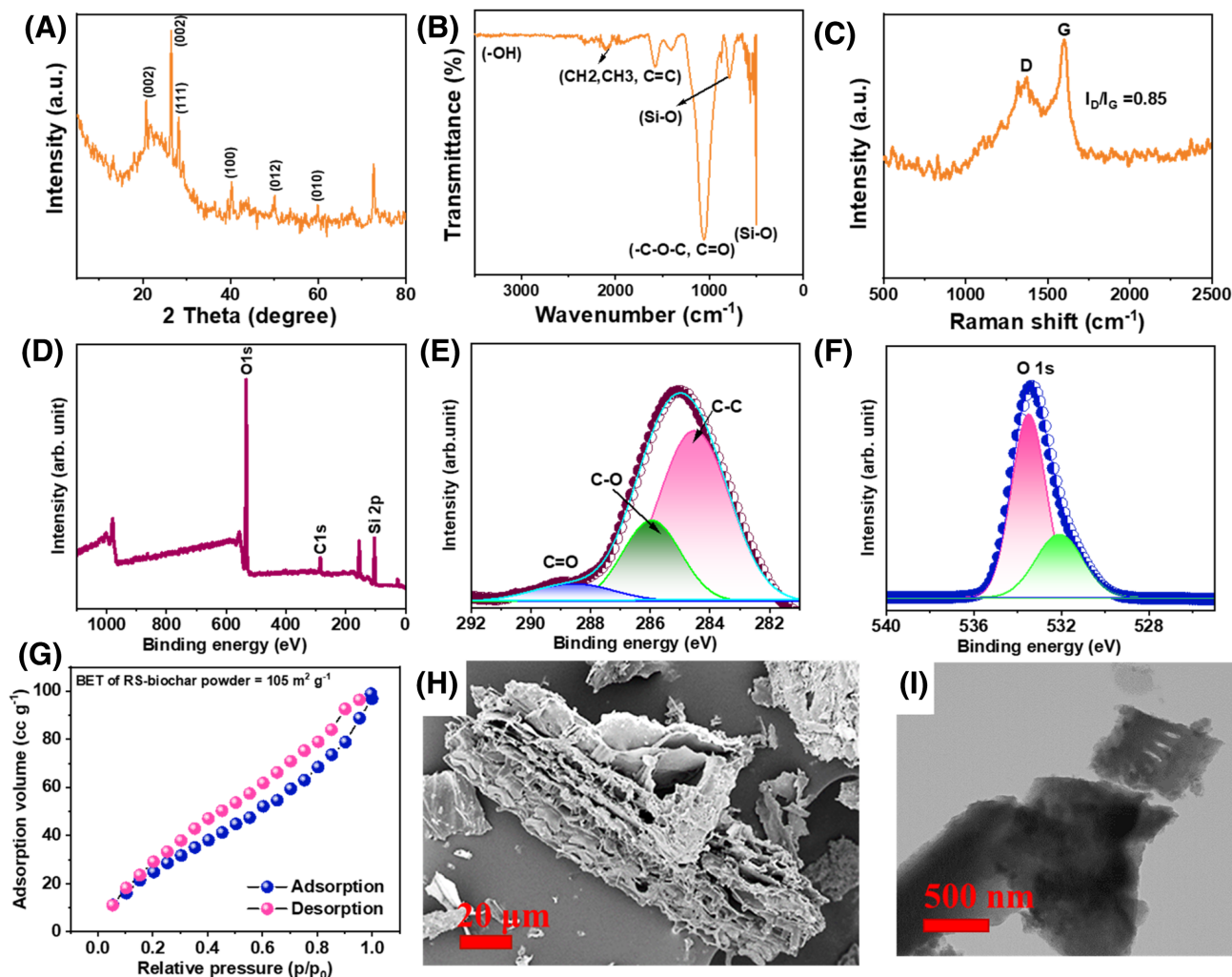
The Figure 3A depicts the XRD pattern of GG derived from rice straw biochar. Here, in addition to a large peak in the  $2\theta$  range of  $20^\circ$ - $30^\circ$ , the spectrum shows a few high intensity peaks with presence of carbon/graphene and graphene collective silica components. Earlier investigations reached similar conclusions for the silica-combined graphene nanocomposite along with peaks that mimic the potential presence of crystalline Si and materials based on graphene.<sup>47</sup> In case of green graphene, it consists of Silica rich,  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ , and C, respectively, which actively participate in the electrochemical activities. Further in cyclic voltammograms (CVs) characteristics show more pseudocapacitive behavior in lower scan rate while increasing scan rate dominance as redox activities decreases and EDLC increases. This is due to the contribution of ionic adsorption on the high specific surface area of GG. The extraordinary pseudocapacitive nature of green graphene is believed to originate from the presence of hybridized C,  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,<sup>48</sup> and  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ .<sup>49</sup> This multielement characteristics of GGs actively interact with aqueous KOH electrolytes boosting specific capacitance. Also, there is intercalation deintercalation of electrolytic ions



**FIGURE 2** (A) XRD pattern of bulk and powder FeCoNiCuMn HEA (B) FTIR of powdered HEA (C) BET adsorption-desorption curve, (D) SEM image of HEA, (E-I) EDAX elemental mapping of all quinary elements of HEA and (J-L) HRTEM analysis followed by fringes pattern and determination of lattice spacing.

into porous layered graphitic structure resulting in the higher advanced cyclic area under CVs. FTIR spectra were used to examine the functional groups that are present in GG sheets. Figure 3B shows FTIR spectra with peaks at 463, 640, 784, 1049, and 3440  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  confirm multiple elemental bond vibration. Peaks at 3443 and

1634  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , were due to aromatic C=C bonds and the -O-H stretching vibration, respectively.<sup>50</sup> The peaks at 780 and 1050  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  corresponds to the symmetric and asymmetric stretching of Si-O-Si bond.<sup>51</sup> Furthermore, the band at 463  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  could have originated from the bending vibration of the Si-O-Si bond.<sup>50</sup>



**FIGURE 3** Characterization of green graphene derived from rice straw biochar (A) XRD, (B) FTIR spectrum, (C) Raman spectra, (D–F) XPS analysis, (G) BET plot, (H) FESEM image, and (I) HRTEM image.

Raman analysis was used to identify the presence of defective and graphitic bands to understand how the graphene-based structures evolved. As seen in Figure 3C, The D and G bands are determined by the Raman spectra band at 1344 and 1582  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , respectively. Narayanan et al.<sup>51</sup> claims that the  $\text{sp}^2$  carbon structure, indicates the G-band a property of graphitic materials. However, the D bands were observed due to imperfections of  $\text{sp}^3$ -hybridized carbon. The above peaks' ratio of  $I_D/I_G$  was 1, which revealed the occurrence of a layered graphitic structure. The TEM image in Figure S8A,B shows layered structures with different planes and its FFT pattern. The Figure 3D shows XPS survey of GG. The survey plot shows all primary elements C, Si, and O being present. Further deconvoluting the C and O peaks shows a clear characteristic of graphitic structures. In the Figure 3E the deconvoluted peaks of C1s appear at 284.52, 285.95, and 288.57 eV, refers to the conjugate bond (C–C), carbonyl (C–O), and carboxyl group (C=O) of C1s, respectively.<sup>52,53</sup>

Hence the orbitals associated with C1s are mostly  $\text{sp}^3$  hybridized, and the remaining C orbitals are constructed the C–O and O–C=O. The deconvoluted peaks of O1s at 532.2 and 533.48 eV as shown in Figure 3F, corresponds to the C–O and C=O, which confirm strong interaction of C and O atom in the GG derived from rice straw biochar.<sup>52,54</sup>

The BET analysis was used to observe the prepared GG sheets with various surface kinetics, pore volume as well as pore distribution. For the analysis, a test was performed at 77 K using  $\text{N}_2$  physical adsorption tests, and the obtained result is as shown in Figure 3G. Obtained BET graph of GG sheets were classified as a type-II curve, and exhibited increased adsorption with a minor  $\text{N}_2$  sorption profile. It was observed due to cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin decomposition in the mesoporous channels. However, at relative pressures of 0.8 and 1.0, noticeable increase in  $\text{N}_2$  sorption characteristic was also observed, indicating that GG sheets may have a

microporous structure.<sup>55</sup> Surface area of GG sheets was  $7.3 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ , and the mean pore diameter was reported to be very similar to  $4.6 \text{ nm}$ .<sup>55</sup> Additionally, pore volume of  $7.4 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ g}^{-1}$  was noted and pore size distribution also noted along noted at Figure S1C.

The Figure 3H shows a FESEM image of rice straw biochar. The images show a clear porous graphitic structure obtained after ball milling of biochar. The three-dimensional macroporous networks help strong electrochemical activities and boost pseudocapacitive

performance. HRTEM shows the agglomerated graphitic structure as seen in Figure 3I. The surface electrostatic charge GG is demonstrated with help of zeta potential. As shown in Figure S1D, the mean zeta potential was  $-24 \text{ mV}$ . The electrophoretic mobility of both green graphene and HEA is as shown in Figure S1E. The negative value of zeta potential has significant contribution in negative potential range CV as shown in Figure 4A, which attributes a stable EDLC characteristics in the surface of GG electrode. Additionally, particle size

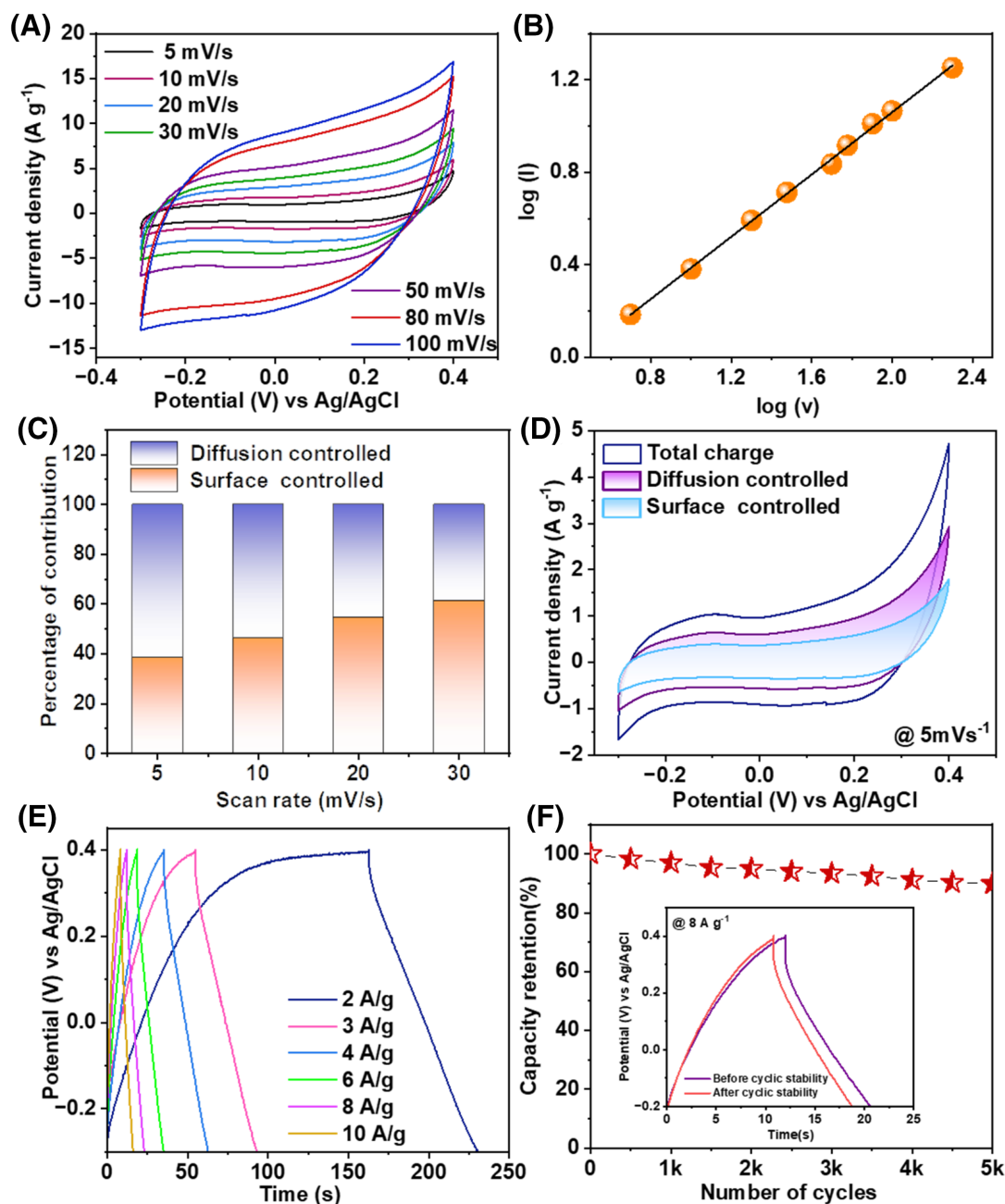


FIGURE 4 (A) CV graphs at different sweep rates 5 to  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ , (B)  $\log(I)$  vs  $\log(v)$  at  $0.2 \text{ V}$  around  $0.673$ , (C) Percentage quantified for each sweep rate, (D) Current response at  $5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  for both the surface controlled and diffusion controlled mechanism, (E) GCD plots for the HEA electrode, and (F) Cyclic stability at  $8 \text{ A g}^{-1}$  up to 5000 cycles.

distribution is obtained by DLS with average hydrodynamic size 30  $\mu\text{m}$  of the porous graphite structure.

#### 4 | SUPERCAPACITOR PERFORMANCE OF ELECTRODES

Optimized 3 M KOH aqueous electrolyte is used to demonstrate the electrochemical performance of the FeCoNiCuMn HEA electrode. Due to its maximum ionic conductivity with smaller hydrated ionic sizes, the selection of KOH electrolyte participates in greater ionic interaction activities. Additionally, previous studies back the selection of alkaline electrolytes for FeCoNiCuMn HEA and GGs (biochar) electrodes. Among various concentrations of KOH, 3 M KOH shows greater supercapacitive performance, so further electrochemical characterizations are taken in 3 M KOH electrolytic concentration (Figure S2A). CV curves of the FeCoNiCuMn electrode are shown in Figure 4A taken in between scan rates ranging from 5 to 200  $\text{mVs}^{-1}$ . The lack of redox peaks in CV curves indicates that EDLC activities predominate on the electrode surface, with a lesser degree of slow diffusion-controlled faradic mechanism. Also, quinary elements with respective surface oxidations contribute to non-rectangular CV structures.

Furthermore, the dominance of CV area in the negative potential window is mainly due to the presence of Fe and Mn. In contrast, Ni, Co, and Cu are the capacitive elements that contribute to the positive potential window. Hence, choosing multivalent quinary HEA with different transition elements can exhibit a greater potential window in both positive and negative directions. From the nature of CV, both half cycles' peak current (both reduction and oxidation peak) has a relationship with sweep rate ( $\nu$ ), which can be expressed as  $I = a \nu^b$ <sup>56</sup> where constants 'a' and 'b' are modifiable, which provide inside kinetics of charge storage. The constant 'b' value ranging from 0.5 to 1 signifies pure faradic to pure EDLC behavior, respectively. The exact value of 'b' can be evaluated from the slope of  $\log(I)$  and  $\log(\nu)$  at 0.2 V as seen in Figure 4B. The value  $b = 0.73$  indicates both slow faradic and EDLC contributions combined.

The pore size distribution plays an important role for electrolytic ion participation in both surface controlled and diffusion controlled process. Supercapacitors can store charge by two mechanisms briefly explained as EDLC surface controlled and slow diffusion controlled faradic mechanism, which is expressed as relation in the form of  $q_{\text{total}} = q_s + q_d$ ,  $q_s$  is amount of charge stored by surface controlled process while  $q_d$  refers amount of charge stored by diffusion controlled process, the value of  $q_s$  can be estimated<sup>57</sup> from the total charge axis intercept

using the formula ' $q_i$ ' vs ' $\nu^{-1/2}$ ', plot from the Figure S2B. At each scan rate, we deduce the intercept from the total charge in order to evaluate both contributions. Figure 4C shows the relative contribution in percentage of  $q_s$  and  $q_d$  at different scan rates. It is observed that with increasing scan rate, the diffusion-controlled faradic process decreases due to surface adsorption mechanism. This demonstrates that as the sweep rate is increased, surface ion adsorption increases and the electrode material has more time to participate in surface intercalation and deintercalation at a lower scanning rate. Thus, the changes in oxidation state is associated with multivalent transition metal quinary elements in fast faradic surface redox reactions.

Also, a second analysis can be employed to emphasize a more quantitative interpretation of CV from which individual current contribution of above mentioned mechanisms can be explained. The total current response of the electrode with each scan rate dependency is expressed by Dunn and co-researchers with the relation<sup>58</sup>:

$$i = k_1 \nu + k_2 \nu^{1/2} \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{i}{\nu^{1/2}} = k_1 \nu^{1/2} + k_2 \quad (2)$$

Here, the parameters  $k_1 \nu$  and  $k_2 \nu^{1/2}$  represent current distribution associated with surface-controlled and slow diffusion-controlled processes, respectively. Where  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  are adjustable constants that can be estimated using the plot of  $\frac{i}{\nu^{1/2}}$  against  $\nu^{1/2}$ . As shown in Figure 4D, the current contribution from the diffusion-controlled process ( $k_1 \nu$ ) of the FeCoNiCuMn electrode can be estimated from the overall current distribution using Equations 1 and 2. According to the aforementioned analysis, 62% of the total current response, or more than the total current response, is contributed by the semi-infinite linear diffusion process. However, as seen in the same Figure 4D, surface-controlled capacitive contribution accounts for 38% of the total current response, which is easily estimated using the relation mentioned above. This increased slow diffused faradic activities in FeCoNiCuMn electrode at lower scans might also be the origin of electrolytic ion interaction with redox active sites. Also, with increasing scan rate, surface-controlled mechanism dominance is observed. Now calculating  $C_s$  from CV curves using Equation S1. Highest  $C_s$  obtained 388.28  $\text{Fg}^{-1}$  at a lower scan rate region ( $5 \text{ mVs}^{-1}$ ) while increasing sweep rate capacitance exponentially decays to 55% of the initial value at  $200 \text{ mVs}^{-1}$ .

Furthermore, in-depth electrochemical analysis can be verified using GCD plots taken for FeCoNiCuMn



electrode. The GCD plots (as shown in Figure 4E) of this quinary HEA electrodes are a nonlinear characteristic due to deep interaction with  $K^+$  ions of aqueous KOH electrolyte. With its dual charge storage singularities having spontaneous surface oxidation properties, the electrode gives a good current response over time. For FeCoNiCuMn HEA,  $C_s$  was calculated using Equation S2, around  $194 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  at  $2 \text{ A g}^{-1}$ . With increased current rate to 10 times,  $C_s$  drops to 60%. The surface oxidized HEA nanoparticle shows comparable results with transition metal combination due to synergistic behavior of all elements in HEAs. The cyclic stability of FeCoNiCuMn HEA electrode is demonstrated at  $8 \text{ A g}^{-1}$  up to continuous charge-discharge cycle as shown in Figure 4F. The capacity retention dropped to 92.3% after 5000 cycles and remained stable, which provides a suitable electrode material for supercapacitor application. Further insight into electrochemical kinetics of the FeCoNiCuMn and GG electrode in respective single electrode system studies. The Figure S2C shows Nyquist of FeCoNiCuMn HEA electrode taken between the frequency ranges of 1 to 10 kHz. The lower value of  $R_s$  around  $3.5 \Omega$  suggests good supercapacitive characteristics and constant phase eliminator was inclined. Figure S2D shows EIS fitted curves of the HEA electrode.

The  $C_s$  obtained for FeCoNiCuMn HEA electrode at  $5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  was  $388.28 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  and  $195 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  at  $2 \text{ A g}^{-1}$  demonstrated at 3 M KOH aqueous electrolyte. The  $C_s$  is quite reasonable and comparable with respect to some of our previous HEA studies with FeCoNiCuZn<sup>59</sup> and FeCoNiCrMn<sup>60</sup> HEAs and other HEAs as shown in Table 1. The higher specific capacitance FeCoNiCuMn HEA electrode due to their multivalent quinary elements with multiple states contributing such as:  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{4+}$ ,  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ , and  $\text{Cu}^+$  with their respective surface oxidations backing these capacitive results.

Next, the GG electrode's supercapacitive performance can be explained in a similar manner as FeCoNiCuMn HEA electrode. The CV scans are recorded in between scan range of 5 to  $200 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ , potential window of  $-1.0$  to  $0.0 \text{ V}$  (Figure 5A). The CVs shape characteristics are more pseudocapacitive behavior in lower scan rate while increasing scan rate dominance of redox activities decreases and EDLC increases, due to the contributor through ion adsorption on the high specific surface area of green graphene. This extraordinary pseudocapacitive nature of GG may be due to the presence of hybridized C,  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,<sup>48</sup> and  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$ .<sup>49</sup> This multielement characteristic presence in GGs actively interact with aqueous KOH electrolytes boosting specific capacitance. Also, there is intercalation-deintercalation of electrolytic ions into porous layered graphitic structure resulting in higher advanced cyclic area under CVs.

In detail, quantification of “surface controlled” and slow infinite “diffusion controlled” capacitance was estimated from the above relation and the total charge (obtained from the cyclic area) and sweep rate is as shown in Figure 5B. For a clear understanding, the percentage of contribution with respective scan rate is employed in Figure 5C. We note that the redox phenomena can be explained with lower scan rate considering  $5 \text{ mVs}^{-1}$ , the slow faradic diffusion controlled dominance is higher than surface adsorption. While increasing scanning rates at  $50 \text{ mVs}^{-1}$ , the diffusion-controlled characteristics was significant due to redox activities with KOH electrolyte. The additional result of charge transfer depends on how electrode material interacts with active electrolytic ions. Also, as shown in Figure 5D,E, a separate current response over the total current for a particular scan rate  $5 \text{ mVs}^{-1}$  is calculated using the Equations (1) and (2).

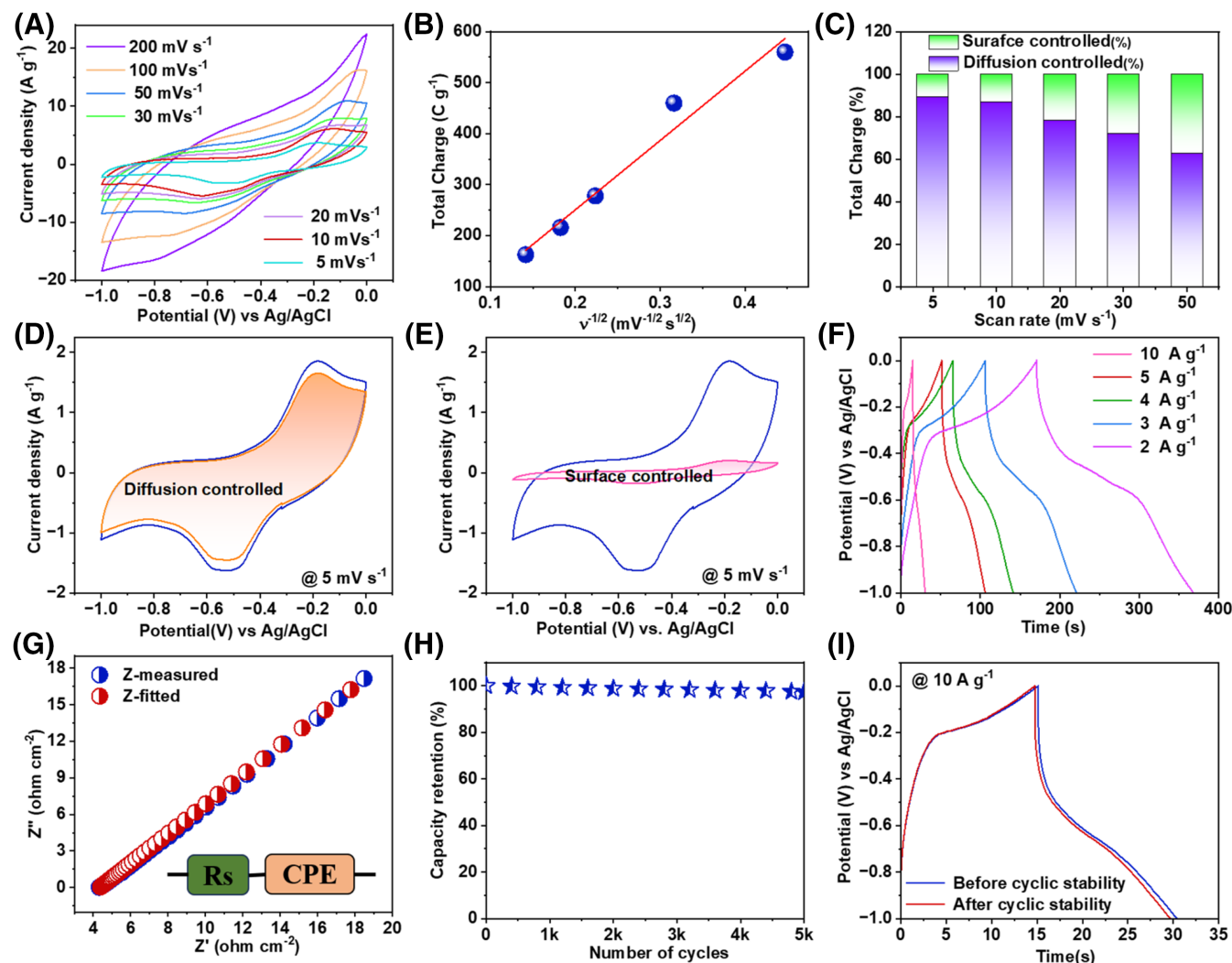
Conversely, GCD plots of GG followed a strong faradic behavior with more plateaus in lower current rates, mimicking properties of various redox materials, proving excellent supercapacitive behavior (Figure 5F). Highest  $C_s$  was obtained at  $2 \text{ A g}^{-1}$  is around  $410 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  by using Equation S2. Though the current density was improved up to six times, the  $C_s$  drops 60% of initial value, proving the electrode material's practical charge storing applicability. The single electrode cyclic stability also demonstrated up to 5000 cycles (Figure 5H). The capacity retention of 97.8% proves excellent capacity retention. Figure 5I shows GCD before and after cycling. In further comparison with rice straw based supercapacitors<sup>68-70</sup> this silica rich GG derived from rice straw gives prominent specific capacity. In similar fashion EIS analysis of the GG electrode is shown in Figure 5G above which mimics same circuit pattern of a series resistance along with a constant phase eliminator, which is taken in between frequency range of 100 kHz to 1 Hz. We have compared some of the existing agricultural derived carbon biomass supercapacitors as shown in Table 2.

#### 4.1 | Asymmetric liquid state device study

For a supercapacitor device, asymmetric devices have good performance due to increased operating potential window, higher energy density, and long-term cyclic stability. The asymmetric liquid state device is fabricated with FeCoNiCuMn HEA as positive and GG as negative electrodes. To get the best performance, the charge-balanced mass loading is taken in both electrodes.<sup>88</sup> The required mass loading on both electrodes was calculated with the assistance of the charge balance equation, as

TABLE 1 Comparison of this FeCoNiCuMn HEA with various HEA based electrode.

Electrode material	Synthesis method	Morphology	Electrolyte	Potential window	Specific capacitance	Ref.
(CrMnFeCoNi) <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	Co-precipitation	Quasi spherical	2 M KOH	0.0 to 0.45 V	239 F g <sup>-1</sup> @0.5 A g <sup>-1</sup>	24
(FeCoCrMnZn) <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	Solid state reaction	Irregular particles and agglomeration	1 M KOH	0.15 to 0.5 V	340.3 F g <sup>-1</sup> @ 0.5 A g <sup>-1</sup>	25
AlCoCrFeNi two phase dissolution	Selective phase dissolution	Nanoporous structure	2 M KOH	-0.2 to 0.5 V	700 mF/cm <sup>2</sup> at 1 mA/cm <sup>2</sup>	26
FeNiCoMnMg HEA-NPs/ACNFs	CTS method	Nanoporous structure	6 M KOH	0.0 to 0.8 V	203 F g <sup>-1</sup> @ 1 mA/cm <sup>2</sup>	27
HEA-NP@MOL/HCPC	Liquid phase synthesis	Cluster of nanoparticles	1 M KOH	-1.0 to 0.0 V	495.4 F g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.5 A g <sup>-1</sup>	61
rHEO – CNT	Solgel method	Connected nanoparticles in nanotubes	1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	0.0 to 1.0 V	157.5 F g <sup>-1</sup> at 1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	28
HEA-Nitrides	Mechanochemical assisted synthesis	Nano flakes architecture	1 M KOH	-1.0 to 0.0 V	230F g <sup>-1</sup> at 10 mV s <sup>-1</sup>	62
(TiNbTaZrHf)C powder	Facile electrochemical process	Spherical nanoparticles	1 M KOH	-1.0 to 0.0 V	95.2F g <sup>-1</sup> at 10 mV s <sup>-1</sup>	63
(VNbTaZrHf)C	Direct electro-deoxidation	Dense block structure	1 M KOH	-0.7 to -0.2 V	151 F g <sup>-1</sup> at 10 mV s <sup>-1</sup>	64
HEO/f-CSAC	Grinding	Cavity-type microstructure	1 M NaCl	0.0 to 1.0 V	147.5F g <sup>-1</sup> at 1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	29
(Zr <sub>0.5</sub> Ti <sub>0.5</sub> Ce <sub>0.5</sub> Hf <sub>0.5</sub> )O <sub>7</sub>	Sol-Gel synthesis	Roughly rice-like	1 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	-1.0 to 1 V	703.3 F g <sup>-1</sup> at 1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	65
NiCuFeCoMn-Carbonate	Hydrothermal Method	Structure flowers like	1 M KOH	0.1 to 0.5 V	1241 F g <sup>-1</sup> at 3 A g <sup>-1</sup>	30
La <sub>0.7</sub> Bi <sub>0.3</sub> Mn <sub>0.4</sub> Fe <sub>0.3</sub> Cu <sub>0.3</sub> O <sub>3</sub> HEP	Solvothermal	Spherical shell pore structure	6 M KOH	-1.0 to 0.0 V	480.95 C g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.5 A g <sup>-1</sup>	66
K(MgMnFeCuNi)Fe(CN) <sub>6</sub>	Mechanochemical	Agglomeration particles	1 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	0.2 to 1.0 V	175 F g <sup>-1</sup> at 5 mVs <sup>-1</sup>	67
CoCrNiFeMn HEA	Induction melting, ball milling	Agglomeration nanostructure	3 M KOH	-0.1 to 0.5 V	264 F g <sup>-1</sup> at 1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	60
FeCoNiCuZn HEA	Induction melting, ball milling	Nanostructured agglomeration	3 M KOH	0.0 to 0.5 V	325.17 F g <sup>-1</sup> at 1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	59
FeCoNiCuMn HEA	Induction melting, ball milling	Agglomeration nanostructure	3 M KOH	-0.3 to 0.4 V	194 F g <sup>-1</sup> at 2 A g <sup>-1</sup>	This study



**FIGURE 5** (A) CV at different scan rates (5–200  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ ), (B) Total charge ( $q$ ) vs inverse square root of scan rate, (C) Percentage contribution of both  $q_s$  and  $q_d$  mechanism for various scan rate 5 to 50  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ , (D, E) diffusion controlled and surface controlled current contribution to the total current at 5  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ , (F) Charge discharge at different current density, (G) Nyquist plot for GG electrode, (H) Cyclic stability of GG electrode at 10  $\text{A g}^{-1}$  up to 5000 cycles, and (I) GCD of GG before and after cyclic stability.

shown in the Equations S3 and S4. The Figure S3A shows the CV of FeCoNiCuMn HEA and GG electrode at 5  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$  from which respective  $C_s$  was calculated. Putting respective  $C_s$ ,  $m$ , and  $V$ , the ratio was 2.0. To create an asymmetric liquid state device, 1 mg of FeCoNiCuMn HEA and 0.5 mg of GG were considered.

Figure 6A shows CV stability optimized up to 1.7 V at 50  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ , showing no discontinuities, even with increasing voltage window 0.8 to 1.7 V. Characteristic cyclic area under CV increases continuously concerning looping the lower CV areas. This promises a clear understanding of the advantages of demonstrating the ASC device. Further CV scans are recorded in between 5 and 200  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$  within the 0 to 1.7 V potential range, as demonstrated in Figure 6B. Here from the nature of CV, it was observed

that shapes are neither pure rectangular nor pure redox type. This concludes a mixed response for HEA and GG as a form of pseudocapacitive (in association with ion intercalation and deintercalation) and EDLC type nature, respectively. This asymmetric combination of both electrode materials leads to the increased area under CV, giving a  $C_s$  of 114 to 61  $\text{F g}^{-1}$  in scan rate ranging from 5 to 100  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$  with a slow charge storage kinetics and fast cyclic reversibility. In addition, the GCD curves were also measured between the current density range of 2 to 10  $\text{A g}^{-1}$  with same voltage stability the of 0 to 1.7 V, as seen in Figure 6C. Mimicking the nonlinear characteristics at lower current rate while increasing the scan rate, the GCD curves become more triangular. Further evaluating  $C_s$ , we obtained 83.22  $\text{F g}^{-1}$  at 2  $\text{A g}^{-1}$  with increasing

TABLE 2 Comparison of green graphene from RS-biochar with various agricultural derived carbon biomass supercapacitors.

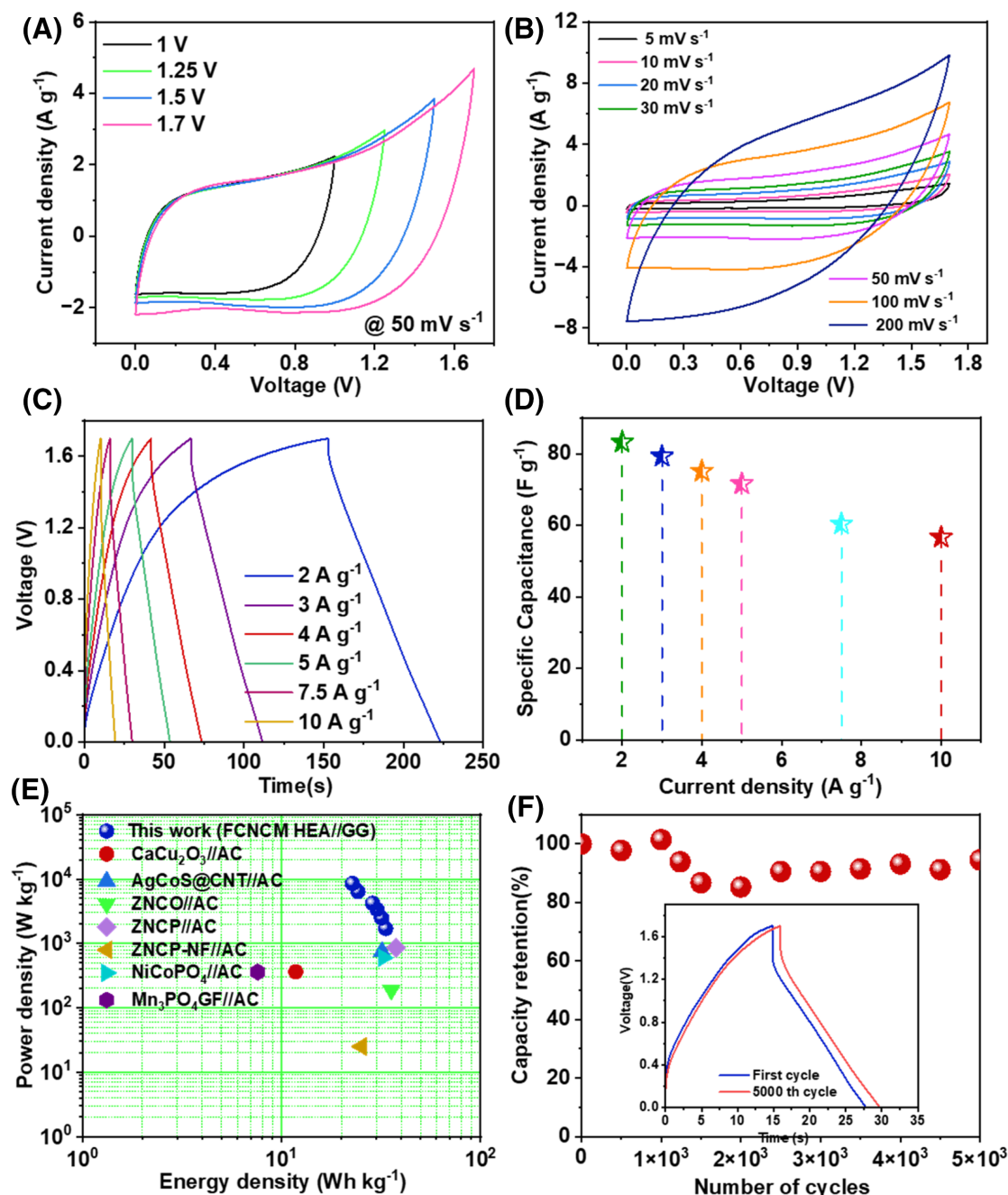
Carbon sources	Pyrolysis activation techniques	Morphology	Electrolyte/potential window (V)	Specific capacitance	Ref.
Peanut shells	Calcined in a furnace 800°C	Worm-hole-like pores	1 M KOH −0.5 to 0.5	136 F g <sup>−1</sup> @ 2 A g <sup>−1</sup>	71
Wolfberry fruits	Catalytic carbonization/SnCl <sub>2</sub>	Blanket-like rough structure	6 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	365 F g <sup>−1</sup> @ 0.2 A g <sup>−1</sup>	72
Chestnut pulp	Carbonization	Pseudo-honeycomb-like 3D network	6 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	373 F g <sup>−1</sup> @ 0.5 A g <sup>−1</sup>	73
Cornstalk	800°C carbonization	Three-dimensional mesh-like pore	6 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	350.4 F g <sup>−1</sup> @0.2 A g <sup>−1</sup>	74
Wheat straw	Microwave heating 500°C	Interconnected macropores	6 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	325 F g <sup>−1</sup> @ 0.5 A g <sup>−1</sup>	75
Discarded tea waste	700°C carbonization	Bulk flakes densely packed structure	3 M KOH −0.8 to 0.3	131.95 F g <sup>−1</sup> @0.5 A g <sup>−1</sup>	76
Cherry stones	700°C carbonization	Large pore structure	6 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	370.5 F g <sup>−1</sup> @ 0.5 A g <sup>−1</sup>	77
Corn cob waste	750°C carbonization	Uniform porous structure	6 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	394.9 F g <sup>−1</sup> @ 1 A g <sup>−1</sup>	78
Wheat husk	800°C carbonization	Hollow tunnel's structure	6 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	271.5 F g <sup>−1</sup> @ 0.5 A g <sup>−1</sup>	79
Rice straw	400°C carbonization	Mesoporous structure	6 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	324 @ 0.5 A g <sup>−1</sup>	80
Garlic seeds	700°C carbonization	Porous honeycomb-like structure	6 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	268 F g <sup>−1</sup> @ 0.5 A g <sup>−1</sup>	81
Willow wood	800°C carbonization	Microporous structure	6 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	394 F g <sup>−1</sup> @ 1 A g <sup>−1</sup>	82
Waste Bagasse	700°C carbonization	Porous structure	6 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	455 F g <sup>−1</sup> @ 0.5 A g <sup>−1</sup>	83
Taro epidermis	800°C carbonization	Cambered sheet structure	6 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	466 @ 1 A g <sup>−1</sup>	84
Pine nut shells	600°C carbonization	Interconnected carbon nanosheets	6 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	-	85
Crab shells and rice husks	700°C carbonization	3D hierarchically porous structure	6 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	474 F g <sup>−1</sup> @ 0.5 A g <sup>−1</sup>	86
Bean dregs	500°C carbonization	Porous structure	6 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	197 Fg <sup>−1</sup> @ 0.3 A g <sup>−1</sup>	87
Rice straw	600°C carbonization	Graphitic structure	3 M KOH −1.0 to 0.0	410 F g <sup>−1</sup> at 2 A g <sup>−1</sup>	This study

current rate 10 times capacity drop to 68.06% of the initial value (Figure 6D). Additionally, due to the improved potential window, it is important to evaluate the specific energy and power densities. Since the GCD pattern follows on linear charge discharge characteristics,<sup>89,90</sup> the respective energy density and power density can be calculated using the following equations.

$$E(\text{Wh kg}^{-1}) = \frac{I \int V dt}{m} \quad (3)$$

$$P(\text{W kg}^{-1}) = \frac{E}{\Delta t} \quad (4)$$

Specific energy densities calculated from the above equations are 33.4, 31.81, 30.14, 28.71, 24.22, and 22.73 Wh kg<sup>−1</sup> with power densities of 1.7, 2.5, 3.4, 4.2, 6.37, and 8.5 kW kg<sup>−1</sup>, respectively, as seen in the Ragone plot (Figure 6E). The higher energy density as well as higher power density results to form ASC device proves the combining results of FeCoNiCuMn and



**FIGURE 6** (A) CV response at different voltage window, (B) CV at different scan rate between 0 and 1.7 V, (C) GCD curves at current density ranging from 0 to 1.7 V, (D)  $C_s$  vs current density, (E) Ragone plot with comparison with different asymmetric devices, and (F) Cyclic stability at  $7.5 \text{ A g}^{-1}$  (inset first and 5000th GCD cycle).

Si-rich GG as more redox species to subsidize additional faradic pseudocapacitance to total  $C_s$  of the device. Additionally, cyclic stability was tested up to continuous charge-discharge 10000 cycles at  $7.5 \text{ A g}^{-1}$  (Figure S7). In Figure 6F, during first 1000 cycles the capacity retention remains stable with 97.4% at 500 cycle and 101% thereafter. While further increasing the cycles, the capacity drops up to 2000 cycles and further a steady retention on progressive cycles and

observed 93% to 94% with charge discharge cycle reach at 5000 thereafter. The initial and final GCD curves inserted in the Figure 6F, which shows both the cycles are symmetrical in nature proves the nature of charge storage kinetics remains unaltered even after continuous charge-discharge cycle. This proves a practical utility of ASC device for long term applications which combines the properties of multivalent quinary elements of HEA nanostructure and GG. We also compare

the device results with other state-of-art supercapacitors available in Table 3.

EIS recorded between 100 kHz and 1 Hz can be used to explain electrochemical activity. The Nyquist plot is shown in the Figure S3B,D, along with fitted data. The circuit is modified using a Randal circuit with a series resistance ( $R_s$ ), charge transfer resistance ( $R_{ct}$ ) as well as a load resistance along with the two constant phase eliminators (CPE). The equivalent  $R_s$  value is calculated from the real impedance axis intercept which was 8  $\Omega$ . At the same time,  $R_{ct}$  is represented by the semicircle's diameter, which is approximately 5  $\Omega$ . The lower the value of  $R_s$  the greater the ion facilitation phenomenon. Low intrinsic resistance of electrode material as well as good contact between current collector/electrode material was observed.<sup>91</sup> The value of  $R_{ct}$  signifies fast redox activities associated with ASC device to perform better electrochemical activities. Two constant phase eliminators attributed from semi-infinite diffusion of electrolytic ions on to the electrode material. The capacitance component as well as bode plots are also displayed in Figure S3C,E. We also performed measurements for symmetric device

using GG and compared the result with the FeCoNiCuMn HEA//GG asymmetric device (details in Figure S6).

## 4.2 | Theoretical studies

Different AI based machine learning tools have also been explored in the field of computational methodology for data collection, interpretation, algorithm selection as well as model optimization for the field.<sup>102</sup> The  $d$ -band center approach was utilized to create the equimolar concentration of a 13-atom high entropy alloy nanocluster containing the elements Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, and Mn.<sup>103</sup> The average  $d$ -band center values for individual 13-atom nanocluster are listed in Table 4. Here, the Fermi level is adjusted to zero. Mn > Ni > Fe > Co > Cu is the sequence in which the  $d$ -band center values of individual atoms are closest to the Fermi level. Therefore, the ratio of each kind of atoms to total atoms is 3:3:3:2:2, respectively.

With the increase in  $d$ -states near the Fermi level, the supercapacitance is also enhanced.<sup>104</sup> Density of states

TABLE 3 Various liquid state devices with this FeCoNiCuMn//GG asymmetric device.

Electrode material	Device type	Specific capacitance ( $F g^{-1}$ )	Electrolyte	Energy density ( $Wh kg^{-1}$ )	Power density ( $W/kg$ )	Cyclic stability	Ref.
CaCu <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> //AC	Asymmetric	40.41 $F g^{-1}$ at 1 $A g^{-1}$	3 M KOH	11.8	362.5	94% after 10 k cycles	92
AgCoS@CNT//AC	Asymmetric	65 $F g^{-1}$ at 1 $A g^{-1}$	1 M KOH	32	750	82% after 5 k cycles	93
Ni <sub>x</sub> Co <sub>1-x</sub> P <sub>-2.5</sub> //AC	Asymmetric	115.8 $F g^{-1}$ at 1 $A g^{-1}$	2 M KOH	31.52	700	98.3% after 10 k cycles	94
Mn <sub>3</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> GF//AC	Asymmetric	28 $F g^{-1}$ at 1 $A g^{-1}$	6 M KOH	7.6	360	96% after 10 k cycle	95
ZNCO//AC	Asymmetric	113.9 $F g^{-1}$ at 1 $A g^{-1}$	6 M KOH	35.6	187.6	90% after 3 k cycles	96
ZNCP-NF//AC	Asymmetric	181.6 $C g^{-1}$ at 0.2 $A g^{-1}$	3 M KOH	37.59	856.52	92.68% after 5 k cycles	97
Ni-Co-PO <sub>4</sub> //AC	Asymmetric	162.8 $F g^{-1}$ at 1 $A g^{-1}$	3 M KOH	32.5	600	80.4% after 5 k cycles	98
NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @MnO <sub>2</sub> //AC	Asymmetric	112 $F g^{-1}$ at 1 $mA cm^{-2}$	1 M NaOH	35	163	71% after 5 k cycles	99
CoMoO <sub>4</sub> @NiMoO <sub>4</sub> //AC	Asymmetric	-	2 M KOH	28.7	262	99% after 3 k cycles	100
MnO <sub>2</sub> /rGO//AC	Asymmetric	45.25 $F g^{-1}$ at 0.25 $A g^{-1}$	1 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	25.14	250	-	101
FeCoNiCuMn//GGs	Asymmetric	83.22 $F g^{-1}$ at 2 $A g^{-1}$	3 M KOH	33.4	1700	94% after 5 k cycles	This study

TABLE 4 *d*-band center values.

S. No.	Element	<i>d</i> -band center (eV)
1.	Fe	-7.88
2.	Co	-8
3.	Ni	-7.46
4.	Cu	-8.23
5.	Mn	-7.19

calculations for Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Mn, and FeCoNiCuMn 13-atom nanoclusters were carried out here. When compared to single atom nanoclusters, it was discovered that random FeCoNiCuMn HEA had substantially higher *d*-states near Fermi-level (Figure 7). The case of Ni and Co exhibits maximum electronic redistribution below the Fermi level, while the case of Fe and Mn exhibits more hybridized *d*-states, above Fermi level. Thus, it can be deduced that the hybridized *d*-states of Ni and Co

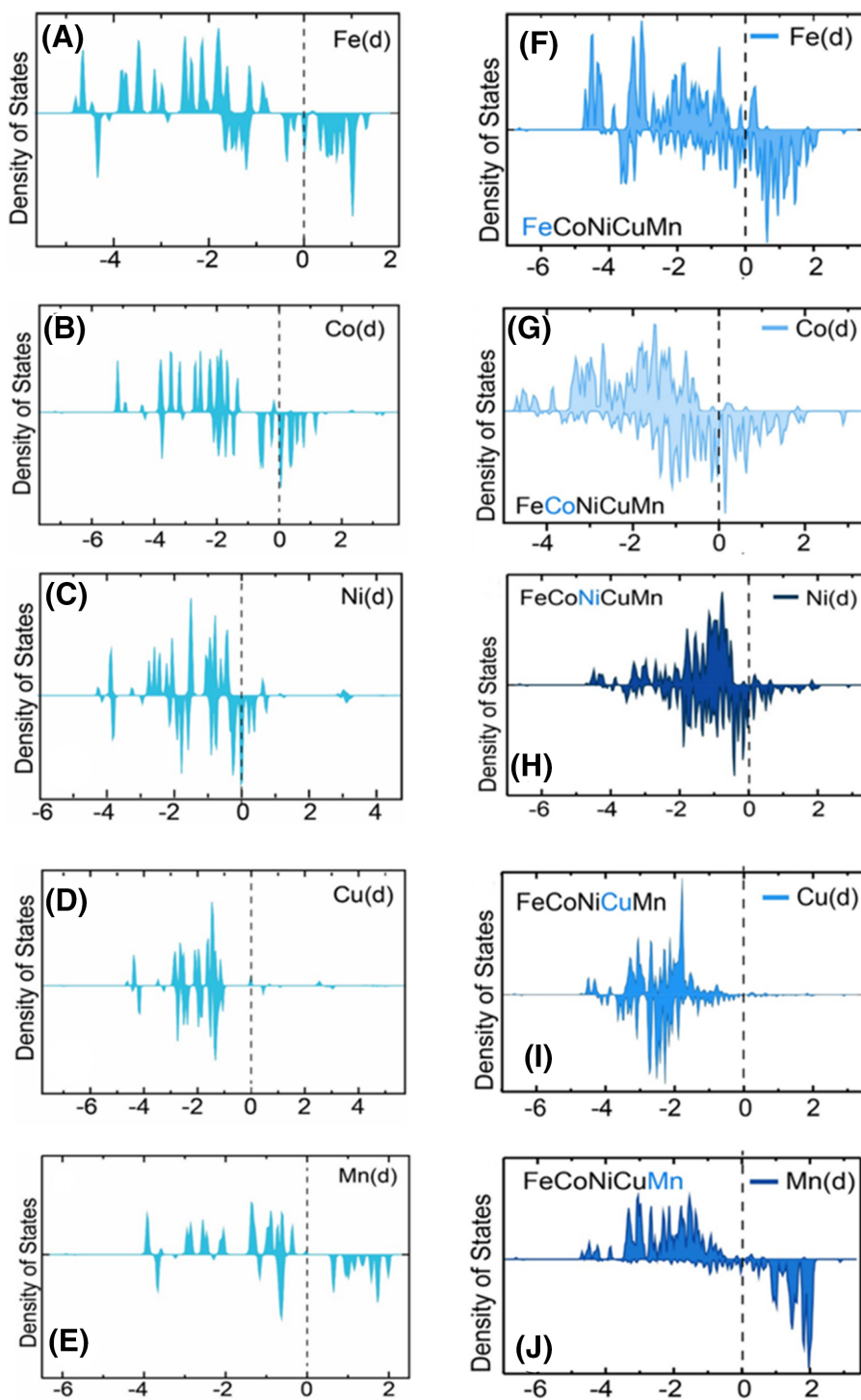


FIGURE 7 DOS of (A) Fe, (B) Ni, (C) Co, (D) Cu, and (E) Mn 13-atom nanocluster and DOS plots for *d*-states of (F) Co, (G) Fe, (H) Cu, (I) Mn, and (J) Ni in FeCoNiCuMn HEA.

contribute more to the HOMO (highest occupied molecular orbital) than the hybridized  $d$ -states of Fe and Mn contribute more to the LUMO (lowest unoccupied molecular orbitals).

### 4.3 | Post electrochemical studies

The post XPS analysis is carried out for FeCoNiCuMn HEA electrode, as shown in Figure S5A showing survey spectra. Starting with deconvoluted peak of Fe 2p (Figure S5B), the broad peaks are referred as Fe<sup>3+</sup>, while other intense peaks are Fe<sup>0</sup>, satellite shake up peaks. This change in intensity as well as peak position can be referred as transition between M<sup>n+</sup> to M<sup>m+</sup> during electrochemical redox reactions. Similarly for Co 2p (Figure S5C), the intense peaks are Co<sup>2+</sup> of Co, while for Ni<sup>2+</sup> (Figure S5D) shifts peak position slightly, while other less intensity peaks are Ni<sup>0</sup> and satellite peaks, respectively. The Cu<sup>+</sup> peaks of Cu 2p (Figure S5E) remains unaltered while intensity changes. The Mn 2p (Figure S5F) deconvoluted peaks are noted as Mn<sup>0</sup>, Mn<sup>4+</sup>, and Mn<sup>sat</sup>, respectively. The broad rise of oxygen is due to strong interaction with electrolytic aqueous KOH electrolyte. The detailed spectrum analysis shows oxidation states remains unaltered even after 10000 cycles showing stability of FeCoNiCuMn HEA as promising supercapacitive electrode material.

We utilize the  $d$ -states to describe the DOS in individual nanoclusters as well as elements in high entropy system. As seen in Figure 7, the change in adsorption energy is greatest when Mn atoms are located in the FeCoNiCuMn nanocluster (Figure 7F-J) as opposed to individual nanoclusters Figure 7A-E. But out of all the elements, Ni was found to have the least difference in adsorption energy. The adsorption energies were calculated using the formulas:

$$\begin{aligned} E(\text{OH}@ \text{Fe} - \text{Co} - \text{Ni} - \text{Cu} - \text{Mn}) \\ = E(*\text{OH}) - (E^* + (E(\text{H}_2\text{O}) - 0.5 * E(\text{H}_2))) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where  $E$  (OH@ Fe-Co-Ni-Cu-Mn) is the adsorption energies of \*OH on different sites of Fe-Co-Ni-Cu-Mn, \* represents pristine nanocluster, and OH with \* superscript denotes the species being adsorbed on the nanocluster,  $E(\text{H}_2\text{O})$  is the energy of water molecule and  $E(\text{H}_2)$  is the energy of hydrogen molecule. Figure S3f shows difference in adsorption of OH<sup>-</sup> of each individual element.

As shown in the Figure 8A, the 'b' value of FeCoNiCuMn is around 0.67 at 0.2 V while for FeCoNiCuZn it is around 0.6 at 0.4 V. For Mn replacing Zn in the

FeCoNiCuX high entropy system results in more pseudocapacitive dominance, which was observed from power law. With multiple Mn states, it is additionally more reactive towards oxygen which results in Mn-oxides which are pseudocapacitive in nature. The same results are mimicked for percentage of diffusion and surface controlled contribution in total charge for various scan rates Figure 8B. For FeCoNiCuMn there was a little dominance of surface controlled process to the total charge as compared to FeCoNiCuZn. In addition, the density function theory comparison with FeCoNiCuMn/Zn also displayed in Figure 8C,D. In order to investigate the variation in the adsorption energy for OH species, OH was adsorbed on every single 13-atom nanocluster, and the adsorption energy of each FeCoNiCuZn HEA element was computed (Figure 8E) using the following formula.<sup>59</sup>

As described by Hammer and Norskov,<sup>105</sup> the first moment of  $d$ -DOS (density of states for  $d$ -electrons of metal) is the  $d$ -band center.

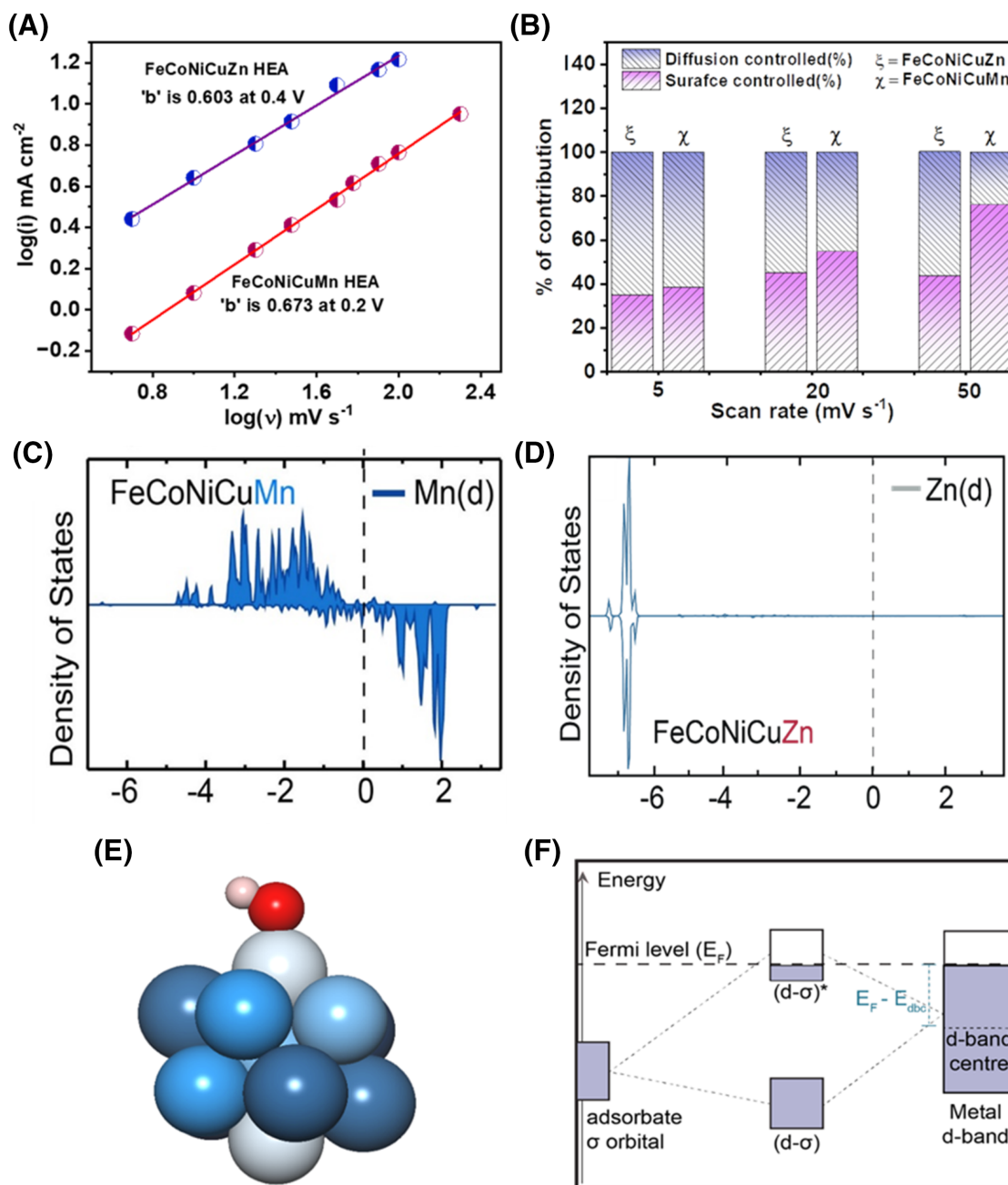
$$\epsilon_d = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} n_d(\epsilon) \epsilon d\epsilon}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} n_d(\epsilon) d\epsilon} \quad (6)$$

The metal  $d$ -band hybridizes with adsorbate bonding orbitals to form bonding and anti-bonding orbitals. Since the renormalized bonding orbitals of adsorbate is lower in energy, the bonding orbitals ( $d - \sigma$ ) thus formed will be occupied by adsorbate electrons (Figure 8F). It is the filling of anti-bonding orbitals ( $d - \sigma$ )\* that determines the strength of the metal-adsorbate bond. Smaller the difference between Fermi level and  $d$ -band center ( $E_f - E_d$ ), more unoccupied antibonding orbitals are present above the Fermi level, thus leading to stronger bonding. The  $E_f - E_d$  value of Mn is lesser than that of Zn (see Table 4). The  $d$ -states near the Fermi level has a direct influence on supercapacitance, as mentioned earlier. Hence, the replacement of Mn in place of Zn improves the supercapacitance of the HEA, due to availability of more  $d$ -states near the Fermi level. These results explain the replacement of Mn over Zn in HEA system providing more pseudocapacitive nature.

## 5 | CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the article demonstrates a strategy to synthesize nanostructured HEA comprising of FeCoNiCuMn by simple induction melting followed by ball milling. The prepared FeCoNiCuMn HEA electrode showed improved CV and good GCD response for three electrodes with





**FIGURE 8** (A) Comparison of ' $b$ ' value of FeCoNiCuMn and FeCoNiCuZn HEA electrode at 0.2 and 0.4 V, respectively, (B) Comparison of surface controlled and diffusion controlled percentages for both kinds of electrode, (C, D) d-band analysis for the Mn and Zn in the respective HEAs, (E) OH species adsorbed on Co atom of 13-atom FeCoNiCuMn HEA nanocluster. Nanocluster with different shades of blue represents FeCoNiCuMn HEA, red represents oxygen atom and off-white color represents hydrogen, and (F) d-band center.

maximum  $C_s$  of 192.5 at 2 A g<sup>-1</sup> in both positive as well as negative voltage range. Green graphene (GG) is prepared from pyrolysis of rice straw (agricultural wastage) and used it as anode, which displays a highest  $C_s$  of 410 F g<sup>-1</sup> at 2 A g<sup>-1</sup> (560 F g<sup>-1</sup> at 5 mVs<sup>-1</sup>) in three electrode system. Due to their respective significant performance in both positive and negative potential window, fabrication of ASC device was considered with 3 M KOH electrolyte which was operated up to 1.7 V potential

window. This wide voltage window device displays a  $C_s$  of 83.22 F g<sup>-1</sup> at 2 A g<sup>-1</sup> with a specific energy of 33.4 Wh kg<sup>-1</sup> by consuming specific power of 1.7 kW kg<sup>-1</sup>. We have thoroughly examined the  $d$ -band center for each elements associated with the FeCoNiCuMn HEA. We explain the replacement of Zn element with Mn in the high entropy system in terms of  $d$ -band center and its effects on improving pseudocapacitive nature in the system.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data that support the findings of this study are available in Supporting Files online.

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information can be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of this article.

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