

## NEWSLETTER

### EDUCATION

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#### **Expansion of vocational universities and technical education**

China approved the creation of 23 new vocational universities, part of a broader push to expand application-oriented tertiary institutions and better align talent supply with evolving industrial needs across multiple high-demand sectors such as manufacturing, IT, healthcare, and emerging green technologies, supporting national economic modernization goals. **(People's Daily)**

#### **Demographic pressures on kindergarten education**

Between 2020 and 2024, kindergarten enrolments dropped by approximately 25% (about 12 million children) and more than 41,500 kindergartens were closed nationwide, further highlighting the urgent need for structural adjustment, curriculum reform, and significantly improved quality in early-childhood education across the country. **(Financial Times)**

#### **Expansion of higher-education enrolment to meet strategic areas**

In 2025, China's leading universities announced they would add around 100–150 new undergraduate places each in fields such as AI, integrated circuits, biomedicine, and new energy; for example, Peking University added 150 places, and Renmin University of China added over 100, emphasizing strategic innovation priorities. **(Reuters)**

#### **Tuition-fee waivers and reductions for preschool children**

China announced that children in their final year at about 10 million public kindergartens nationwide will have tuition waived, and eligible private kindergartens serving approximately 3 million children will see reduced fees, supported by additional fiscal subsidies totaling over 5 billion RMB, to ensure wider access and affordability for all families nationwide. **(Reuters)**

#### **Career and technical training for rural workers**

China unveiled a plan comprising 14 specific tasks aimed at improving vocational education access, job-seeking support, and entrepreneurship opportunities for approximately 300 million rural migrant workers, nearly 100 million of whom are expected to retire in the next decade, ensuring sustainable workforce development and long-term economic growth. **(Reuters)**