🔶 STEP 3: Creating a Function: GetTotalAid

CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION GetTotalAid(p_student_id NUMBER)

RETURN NUMBER IS

total NUMBER;

BEGIN

SELECT NVL(SUM(approved_amount), 0)

INTO total

FROM Application

WHERE student_id = p_student_id AND status = 'Approved';

RETURN total;

EXCEPTION

WHEN OTHERS THEN

RETURN -1;

END;

🧠 What It Does:

- Accepts a **student ID** as input
- Returns the **total approved aid** for that student
- Uses NVL(..., 0) to return 0 if nothing found
- If any error occurs (invalid ID, etc.), it safely returns -1

✅ Why It Matters:

This function can be reused in reports, views, or queries to **quickly summarize aid per student** — a common MIS requirement