

Problem solving

**There are such things
as intractable problems.**

**There is such a thing as rational despair.
Saying so marks one out as callous.**

**But not saying so, pretending that
all questions have answers, is worse,
because if a problem persists, it must be that
politicians are incompetent or don't care.**

**From an essentially positive premise
— that nothing is beyond human ingenuity —
we arrive at a cynical and acrimonious
atmosphere.**

**Janan Ganesh,
Financial Times, March 19, 2024**