Recent research has advanced our understanding of transregional exchange across the Indian Ocean and South China Sea, unearthing even earlier evidence of complex societies, trade, and cross-culturalism. Changing perceptions about the nature of interactions between early India and Cambodia occupy a unique place within this larger historiography of intra-Asian cultural encounters. Even as academic writings engage with refining analytical frames to better comprehend the complexity, antiquity, and history of India-Cambodia relationships, collective memory as revealed in majoritarian imagination unapologetically regresses to debunked notions of ‘Greater India’ or Indian cultural conquest of Southeast Asia. Contemporary popular perception in India about the world-renowned Cambodian Angkor Wat, for example, continues to view it as an emblem of India’s cultural benevolence to Cambodia even as Cambodian official opinion resists attempts to appropriate its national symbol. This talk engages with the nature of negotiations at work between history and memory in the way that national identities pan out and India’s cultural links with Cambodia are variously re-imagined.